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Report of the International Criminal Court

Report of the International Criminal Court

Note by the Secretary-General

The report of the International Criminal Court on its activities for 2012/13 is submitted herewith to the General Assembly in accordance with article 6 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court and paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 66/262.

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Report of the International Criminal Court for 2012/13

Summary

One hundred and twenty-two States are now parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, following ratification by Côte d'Ivoire on 15 February 2013.

During the reporting period, six States ratified amendments on the crime of aggression and seven States ratified amendments on certain crimes in non-international armed conflicts, bringing the total number of States to have accepted these amendments to seven and nine, respectively; 72 countries have ratified the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Criminal Court, with only one State joining during the reporting period.

The caseload of the Court continues to increase. Eight situations are currently under investigation, and eight situations are under preliminary examination. Two cases moved to the appeals stage (*Lubanga* and *Katanga* cases). One accused was acquitted (Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui). The trial of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo is still ongoing. The trials in the Kenya and the Banda and Jerbo cases are scheduled to start in due course. The Gbagbo case remains at the pretrial stage. All cases in the situations of Libya and Darfur, Sudan — referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council — remain at the pretrial stage. In these situations, none of the arrest warrants issued by the Court have been executed. Mr. Ntaganda, in the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, was the first person subject to an arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court to surrender himself to the Court.

Arrest warrants issued by the Court remain outstanding against 12 individuals:

(a) Uganda: Joseph Kony, Vincent Otti, Okot Odhiambo and Dominic Ongwen, since 2005;

(b) Democratic Republic of the Congo: Sylvestre Mudacumura, since 2012;

(c) Darfur, the Sudan: Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb, since 2007; Omar Al Bashir, two warrants, since 2009 and 2010; and Abdel Raheem Hussein, since 2012;

(d) Libya: Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullan Al-Senussi, since 2011;

(e) Côte d'Ivoire: Simone Gbagbo, since 2012.

The Court requires timely and full cooperation from States parties to assist and support the Court in its activities, including the arrest and surrender of persons, asset tracking and freezing, and victim and witness protection. The Court also needs States parties' support for acquittals, provisional releases, the enforcement of sentences and the execution of the decisions and orders of the Court.

Public and diplomatic support for the mandate of the Court further contributes to its effective functioning, and the Court recognizes the valuable support of civil society and international organizations. The continuous cooperation of the United Nations is particularly appreciated.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Judicial proceedings	4
III.	Investigations and preliminary examinations	11
IV.	International cooperation	17
V.	Institutional developments	21
VI.	Conclusion	21

I. Introduction

1. The present report, covering the period 1 August 2012 to 31 July 2013, is the ninth annual report of the International Criminal Court submitted to the United Nations in accordance with article 6 of the Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court.[1]

II. Judicial proceedings

2. During the reporting period, proceedings before the Court continued in the seven existing situations: Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur (the Sudan), the Central African Republic, Kenya, Libya and Côte d'Ivoire.

3. On 16 January 2013, the Prosecutor opened an investigation in Mali following a referral by the country in July 2012.

4. During the reporting period, the Court received 716 applications for participation in proceedings and 722 applications for reparation. The Registry filed 70 transmissions, observations and reports in relation to victim issues. There are 13 defence teams working before the Court — 8 of which are funded by the legal aid scheme — and another 10 teams of legal representatives, all under the legal aid scheme.

A. Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. *The Prosecutor v. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo*

5. On 3 October 2012, Mr. Lubanga filed appeals against the Trial Chamber I's judgment of 14 March 2012, convicting him, as well as the Trial Chamber's decision of 10 July 2012, sentencing him to 14 years of imprisonment. On the same day, the Prosecutor filed an appeal against the sentencing decision. The Appeals Chamber has rendered numerous interlocutory decisions in relation to these appeals, including on the participation of victims in the proceedings.

6. On 24 August, and 3 and 6 September 2012, Mr. Lubanga and the legal representatives of two victims' groups filed appeals under article 82(4) of the Statute against the decision of Trial Chamber I of 7 August 2012 on reparations. Mr. Lubanga filed a separate appeal against this decision under article 82(1)(d) on 10 September 2012. On 28 September and 1 October 2012, the legal representatives of two victims' groups, the Office of Public Counsel for victims, the Prosecutor, Mr. Lubanga, and the Trust Fund for Victims submitted their respective observations. The Appeals Chamber determined, on 14 December 2012, that the appeals brought under article 82(4) of the Statute were admissible, whereas the appeal brought under article 82(1)(d) was not, because the Trial Chamber's decision of 7 August 2012 was deemed to be a reparations order. On 8 April 2013, upon the invitation of the Appeals Chamber, the Trust Fund for Victims submitted observations on the documents in support of the appeals.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2283, No. 1272.

2. *The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga and Mathieu Ngudjolo Chui*

7. On 21 November 2012, Trial Chamber II decided to sever the cases of Mr. Katanga and Mr. Ngudjolo. In the case against Mr. Ngudjolo, the Chamber acquitted the accused of all charges on 18 December 2012. The Prosecutor's appeal against this decision is pending. Upon his release, Mr. Ngudjolo applied for asylum in the Netherlands, where he currently remains. In this regard, the Appeals Chamber has issued several mainly confidential decisions.

8. In the case against Mr. Katanga, the Chamber decided to activate Regulation 55 of the Regulations of the Court and gave notice to the accused that it was considering recharacterizing charges in terms of criminal responsibility. In particular, the Chamber decided to consider the possibility that Mr. Katanga could be responsible under article 25(3)(d)(ii) of the Statute instead of article 25(3)(a). Mr. Katanga challenged that decision, but his appeal was rejected by the Appeals Chamber on 24 March 2013.

9. Subsequently, the Chamber decided that Mr. Katanga should be given an opportunity to re-examine previous or new witnesses, or to present other evidence admissible under the Statute, in accordance with Regulation 55(3) of the Regulations of the Court. The deadline for the defence to submit its final list of evidence is 17 September 2013.

3. *The Prosecutor v. Callixte Mbarushimana*

10. On 3 September 2012, Pre-Trial Chamber II rejected *in limine* a request presented by the defence to review decisions by the Registrar with regard to the scope of the legal aid paid by the Court.

4. *The Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda*

11. On 26 March 2013, Bosco Ntaganda appeared before Pre-Trial Chamber II after his voluntary surrender to the Court. During the initial appearance, it was decided that the confirmation of charges hearing would start on 23 September 2013.

12. On 12 April 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber II set the regime for evidence disclosure and requested the parties, inter alia, to proceed with a detailed analysis of each piece of evidence to be presented in order to describe its relevance for the case.

13. On 17 June 2013, the Chamber postponed the confirmation of charges hearing until 10 February 2014, upon the request of the Prosecutor in order to allow sufficient time to comply with her statutory investigation and prosecution obligations.

14. On 28 May 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber II established principles on the victims' application process, deciding, inter alia, that the Court should conduct a comprehensive and timely outreach mission for potential victim applicants and design a one-page simplified victim participation application form.

15. On 26 June 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber II rejected a request by the legal representative of nine victims participating in the case of Mr. Lubanga Dyilo in order for them to be automatically admitted in the case against Mr. Ntaganda, stating it was imperative for victims already participating in a case to express their specific desire to participate in other cases.

B. Situation in the Central African Republic

The Prosecutor v. Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo

16. The defence started its presentation of evidence on 14 August 2012.

17. On 21 September, Trial Chamber III issued a decision giving notice to parties and participants that the legal characterization of the facts may be subject to change in accordance with Regulation 55(2) of the Regulations of the Court. The potential change entails considering, under the same mode of responsibility, the alternate form of knowledge contained in article 28(a)(i) of the Statute.

18. On 13 December 2012, the Chamber issued a decision on the temporary suspension of proceedings, in which it decided to suspend hearings until 4 March 2013 to give the accused sufficient time for the effective preparation of his defence. On 6 February 2013, the Chamber granted the defence's request to lift the temporary suspension of proceedings. The presentation of evidence by the defence resumed on 25 February 2013.

19. The defence was initially instructed to complete its presentation of evidence within eight months, by April 2013. However, as a result of difficulties with the appearance of witnesses, only 25 out of the 63 witnesses initially scheduled have appeared before the Chamber to date.

20. On 16 July 2013, the Chamber issued a decision on the timeline for the completion of the defence's presentation of evidence and issues related to the closing of the case. The Chamber, inter alia, ordered that the presentation of evidence by the defence be concluded by 25 October 2013 and gave directions in relation to the submission of closing briefs.

C. Situation in Darfur

1. *The Prosecutor v. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir*

21. On 15 February 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber II issued an order regarding the alleged upcoming visit by Omar Al Bashir to Ndjamena requesting Chad to arrest him and surrender him to the Court in line with its obligations under the Rome Statute.

22. On 22 February 2013, the Chamber issued a decision requesting observations from Chad on its alleged failure to execute the request and its alleged failure to consult with the Court on problems that might have impeded the execution of such requests.

23. On 26 March 2013, the Chamber issued its decision on the non-compliance of Chad with the cooperation requests issued by the Court regarding the arrest and surrender of Omar Al Bashir. The Court referred the matter to the Security Council and the Assembly of States Parties. The Chamber noted that, without follow-up actions from the Security Council, referrals made by the Council would become futile.

24. On 15 July 2013, the Chamber received a notification from the Prosecutor in which she informed the Chamber that Omar Al Bashir had arrived in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to participate in a special summit of the African Union. The same

day, the Chamber issued a decision requesting the Federal Republic of Nigeria to immediately arrest Omar Al Bashir and surrender him to the Court.

2. *The Prosecutor v. Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain and Saleh Mohammed Jerbo Jamus*

25. On 26 October 2012, Trial Chamber IV rejected a defence request for a temporary stay of the proceedings, holding that, if necessary, the difficulties the defence has faced in its investigations in Darfur would be taken into account during the course of the trial.

26. On 6 March 2013, the Chamber announced that the trial would commence on 5 May 2014. The Chamber decided that the accused persons' attendance at the trial shall continue to be on the basis of the summonses to appear.

27. On 23 April 2013, the defence notified the Chamber that it had received information that Mr. Jerbo had died in Northern Darfur. The Chamber is currently considering the appropriateness of terminating the proceedings as regards Mr. Jerbo or severing his case from that of Mr. Banda.

3. *The Prosecutor v. Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein*

28. On 25 April 2013, the Prosecutor notified Pre-Trial Chamber II that Mr. Hussein was planning to participate in a conference in Chad.

29. On 26 April 2013, the Chamber issued an order reminding Chad of its obligations under the Rome Statute to arrest Mr. Hussein and surrender him to the Court.

D. Situation in Kenya

1. *The Prosecutor v. William Samoei Ruto and Joshua Arap Sang*

30. On 3 October 2012, Trial Chamber V issued a decision establishing a simplified system for victims' participation applications. The decision establishes a two-track system for victims who either choose to participate through the representation of the common legal representative or wish to present their views and concerns individually. The decision also set out the modalities of victims' participation through the common legal representative.

31. The trial commencement date has been moved twice from 10 April 2013 and is now set to 10 September 2013.

32. On 18 June 2013, the Chamber issued a decision exempting Mr. Ruto from continuous presence during the trial owing to his duties as Deputy President of Kenya. The decision directs Mr. Ruto to sign a waiver in respect of his right to be present during trial and sets out a list of stages during which he is required to be present. On 18 July 2013, the Chamber granted the Prosecution's request for leave to appeal the decision. The Prosecutor filed a document in support of the appeal against this decision on 29 July 2013.

2. *The Prosecutor v. Francis Kirimi Muthaura and Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta*

33. On 22 January 2013, the Prosecutor requested permission from Pre-Trial Chamber II to amend charges in accordance with article 61(9) of the Statute to reinsert a factual allegation that the Chamber denied at the time of the confirmation of the charges because of insufficient evidentiary support.

34. On 21 March 2013, the Chamber granted the request, as it found that the Prosecutor had provided a reasonable justification in relation to the continuation of her investigation subsequent to the confirmation hearing.

35. On 3 October 2012, Trial Chamber V established the same system of victims' participation as in the Ruto and Sang case (see para. 30).

36. The Prosecutor terminated proceedings against Mr. Mathaura after the Chamber authorized her to do so on 18 March 2013.

37. The trial commencement date has been moved twice from 11 April 2013 and is now set at 12 November 2013.

38. On 26 April 2013, the Chamber denied a defence request to stay the proceedings due to the invalidity of the confirmation decision.

E. Situation in Libya

The Prosecutor v. Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi

Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi

39. On 9 and 10 October 2012, the Chamber held a hearing on Libya's admissibility challenge in the Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi case in the presence of representatives of Libya, the Prosecutor, the Defence for Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and the Office of Public Counsel for Victims.

40. On 31 May 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the admissibility challenge presented by Libya in the Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi case. The Chamber concluded that Libya did not present sufficient evidence to demonstrate that it was investigating the same case as that before the Court. The Court rejected Libya's request presented on 4 March, and reiterated on 28 March 2013, to adduce further evidence. The Chamber also concluded that Libya's national system was unable to secure the transfer of the accused into their custody or to carry out the proceedings in the case against Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi.

41. On 7 June 2013, Libya filed an appeal against the 31 May 2013 decision of Pre-Trial Chamber I. Subsequently, the parties and participants filed their submissions on the appeal, including on the request made by Libya for suspensive effect.

42. On 18 July 2013, the Appeals Chamber rejected the request for suspensive effect. The Appeals Chamber saw no merit in the reasons submitted by Libya in support of the request and recalled that Libya is currently under an obligation to surrender Mr. Gaddafi to the Court.

Abdullah Al-Senussi

43. On 17 September 2012, the Registrar presented to Pre-Trial Chamber I with her second report on the status of the execution of the request for arrest and

surrender of Abdullah Al-Senussi. She informed the Chamber that a note verbale had been transmitted to the competent Libyan authorities on 10 September 2012 requesting that they confirm the extradition of Abdullah Al-Senussi from Mauritania to Libya and provide the name of the detention centre in which he was being held and information regarding his state of health.

44. On 10 December 2012, after the Registrar advised that no such official confirmation or information had been received from the Libyan authorities, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued an order instructing the Registrar to remind the Libyan authorities of their obligation to arrest Abdullah Al-Senussi and to surrender him to the Court. In addition, the Chamber requested Libya to provide the information the Registry had requested on 10 September 2012 regarding Mr. Al-Senussi no later than 15 January 2013.

45. On 9 January 2013, the Defence of Abdullah Al-Senussi filed an application in which it requested the Chamber to refer Libya and Mauritania to the Security Council for their non-compliance with their obligations to cooperate with the Court.

46. On 15 and 16 January 2013, Libya confirmed that Abdullah Al-Senussi was in its custody and that national judicial proceedings were ongoing. Libya also provided the requested information regarding the detention centre in which he was being held and his state of health.

47. On 6 February 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I ordered the Libyan authorities to proceed with the immediate surrender of Abdullah Al-Senussi to the Court and to refrain from taking any action that would frustrate, hinder or delay compliance by Libya with its obligation to surrender him to the Court. In addition, the Chamber ordered the Registrar to make the necessary arrangements with the Libyan authorities for a privileged visit to Abdullah Al-Senussi by his Defence.

48. On 12 February 2013, Libya filed a request for leave to appeal the decision issued on 6 February 2013. This application was rejected on 25 February 2013 by Pre-Trial Chamber I.

49. On 2 April 2013, Libya filed an application challenging the admissibility of the case before Pre-Trial Chamber I.

50. On 26 April 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued its decision on the conduct of the proceedings following the admissibility challenge filed by Libya. The Chamber invited the Defence for Abdullah Al-Senussi, the Office of Public Counsel for Victims as legal representative of victims in this case, and the Security Council to submit observations on the admissibility challenge filed by Libya no later than 14 June 2013.

51. On 14 June 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I decided that Libya could postpone the execution of the surrender request in relation to Abdullah Al-Senussi pending determination of its admissibility challenge filed before the Court. In the same decision the Chamber also rejected a renewed request made on 19 March 2013 by the Defence for Abdullah Al-Senussi to make a finding of non-cooperation by Libya and refer the matter to the Security Council.

52. On 16 July 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I authorized Libya, at its request, to file a consolidated reply to the observations filed by the Prosecutor, the Office of Public Counsel for Victims and the Defence for Abdullah Al-Senussi by no later than 14 August 2013.

F. Situation in Côte d'Ivoire

1. *The Prosecutor v. Laurent Gbagbo*

53. On 15 August 2012, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the Defence challenge to the jurisdiction of the Court.

54. On 24 and 25 September 2012, the Chamber held a hearing in the presence of Laurent Gbagbo, his Defence, the Prosecutor, representatives of the Registry and the experts appointed by the Chamber to discuss issues related to Laurent Gbagbo's fitness to take part in the proceedings against him.

55. On 2 November 2012, the Chamber found that Laurent Gbagbo was fit to take part in the proceedings before the Court.

56. On 6 February 2013, the Chamber issued its second decision on victims' participation at the confirmation of charges hearing and in related proceedings in which it admitted 60 further victims to participate and appointed the Office of Public Counsel for Victims as the common legal representative for all victims admitted to participate.

57. The hearing on the confirmation of charges was held from 19 to 28 February 2013.

58. On 3 June 2013, the Chamber decided to adjourn the hearing on the confirmation of charges pursuant to article 61(7)(c)(i) of the Statute, and requested the Prosecutor to consider providing further evidence or conducting further investigation with respect to all charges. The Chamber established a calendar for subsequent proceedings requesting, inter alia, the Prosecutor submit, by 15 November 2013, an amended document containing the charges and an amended list of evidence. The Defence was given until 16 December 2013 to submit observations on the Prosecutor's evidence and to file its amended list of evidence. Thereafter, the Prosecutor and the Office of Public Counsel for Victims were given until 24 January 2014 to submit their final written observations. The Defence was given until 7 February 2014 to submit its final written submissions. On 31 July 2013, the Chamber partly granted the Prosecutor leave to appeal following her request on 10 June 2013 regarding the decision to adjourn the hearing on the confirmation of charges.

59. On 11 June 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I rejected the challenge against the admissibility of the case filed on 15 February 2013 by the Defence.

60. On 12 November 2012, 12 March 2013 and 11 July 2013, Pre-Trial Chamber I issued decisions on the review of Laurent Gbagbo's detention pursuant to article 60(3) of the Statute and in each case, decided to keep him in detention.

2. *The Prosecutor v. Simone Gbagbo*

61. On 22 November 2012, Pre-Trial Chamber I reclassified as public a warrant of arrest issued under seal against Simone Gbagbo on 29 February 2012. This warrant was issued for the crimes against humanity of murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, persecution and other inhumane acts committed in Côte d'Ivoire between 16 December 2010 and 12 April 2011.

III. Investigations and preliminary examinations

A. Investigations

1. Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

62. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted two missions to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to collect information necessary in support of trials and to address the arguments raised by the Defence in the cases against Mr. Lubanga Dyilo, Mr. Katanga and Mr. Ngudjolo Chui.

63. The Office of the Prosecutor also conducted six missions to three countries for its third investigation, focusing on crimes committed by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) in the Kivu provinces, in particular in relation to its case against Mr. Mudacumura. The investigation into alleged crimes committed in the Kivus continues, including in relation to other leaders of FDLR and other groups.

64. Following the voluntary surrender of Mr. Ntaganda, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted 11 missions to 4 countries for the purpose of, inter alia, collecting evidence, screening and interviewing witnesses, and securing the continued cooperation of its partners in relation with the continued investigation concerning the alleged crimes committed by Mr. Ntaganda.

65. Nineteen further missions were conducted in relation to the activities of the Office of the Prosecutor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2. Situation in Uganda

66. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor did not conduct any missions in relation to the situation in Uganda. Nevertheless, it continued to gather information on crimes allegedly committed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and to promote action to implement warrants against the LRA leadership. It also continued gathering and analysing information related to alleged crimes committed by the Uganda People's Defence Forces. The Office of the Prosecutor continues to encourage national proceedings in relation to both parties to the conflict.

3. Situation in the Central African Republic

67. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor continued its investigation into the situation in the Central African Republic and conducted a total of 17 missions to 5 countries for the purposes of, inter alia, meetings with witnesses and following up on information received, and securing the continued cooperation of partners.

4. Situation in Darfur

68. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted six missions to five countries in relation to investigations into the situation in Darfur.

69. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1593 (2005), the Prosecutor presented his sixteenth and seventeenth reports on the situation in Darfur to the Security Council. In her briefings of 13 December 2012 and 5 June 2013, the Prosecutor, inter alia, highlighted the lack of cooperation by the Government of the Sudan and the lack of national proceedings against those responsible for the crimes

committed. The Office of the Prosecutor highlighted its concern, shared by the Security Council, as expressed in its resolution 2091 of 14 February 2013, regarding the ongoing aerial bombardments in Darfur; the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war; the deliberate imposition of restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid; and the ongoing impunity for these crimes. The Office shares the concerns of the Council that business relations with the Sudan, if not monitored carefully, could have the effect of facilitating, funding and supporting crimes against civilians.

70. The Office of the Prosecutor continues to monitor and gather information regarding the situation in Darfur. The information collected indicates that crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide continue to be committed. The Office notes in particular reports of ongoing involvement of International Criminal Court indictee Ali Kushayb with the Sudanese Central Reserve Forces in the alleged commission of crimes in Central Darfur in April 2013, as well as ongoing involvement of International Criminal Court indictees Ahmad Harun and Abdel Raheem Hussein in alleged crimes elsewhere in the Sudan.

71. The Office of the Prosecutor took note of the visit of the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to Khartoum from 20 to 23 May, including a meeting with International Criminal Court indictees Omar Al Bashir, Abdel Raheem Hussein and Ahmad Harun. The Office of the Prosecutor expressed its appreciation for the prior notification of the meeting given by the United Nations, as well as the United Nations assessment that the meeting was considered to be strictly required for carrying out essential duties mandated by the United Nations. The Office of the Prosecutor strongly encourages the United Nations to conduct an ongoing critical analysis of such contacts, in order to assess whether they have indeed succeeded in contributing to the successful conduct of duties mandated by the United Nations, to ensure that the gain to the United Nations is worth the costs of such contact, and does not instead embolden fugitives from justice to think that they will be rewarded for manipulating their way into positions of "indispensability" even as they continue to commit crimes.

5. Situation in Kenya

72. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor undertook 104 missions to 15 countries in relation to investigations into the situation in Kenya.

73. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to gather information on the crimes against humanity of murder, the deportation or forcible transfer and persecution that were allegedly committed in Turbo town, the greater Eldoret area, Kapsabet town and Nandi Hills, from around 30 December 2007 until the end of January 2008.

74. Similarly, the Office of the Prosecutor continued to gather information on the crimes against humanity of murder, deportation or forcible transfer, rape, other inhumane acts and persecution, allegedly committed between 24 and 28 January 2008, against the civilian residents of Nakuru and Naivasha, who were seen as supporters of the Orange Democratic Movement, in particular those belonging to the Luo, Luhya and Kalenjin ethnic groups.

6. Situation in Libya

75. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted 27 missions to 12 countries in relation to investigations into the situation in Libya.

76. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor presented its fourth and fifth reports to the Security Council on the situation in Libya, on 7 November 2012 and on 8 May 2013. The Office of the Prosecutor, inter alia, noted the formation of a new Government under Prime Minister Ali Zeidan on 14 November 2012 and a new Prosecutor-General on 17 March 2013, and the ongoing dialogue about cooperation between the Office of the Prosecutor and the Government of Libya.

77. The Office of the Prosecutor also indicated its awareness of allegations of serious crimes committed by former Gaddafi officials, some of whom are outside of Libya. The Office of the Prosecutor is engaged in the process of documenting the most serious of those crimes and the current activities of those officials who were most responsible for them. The Office of the Prosecutor plans to take a decision regarding a second case in the near future, and will consider additional cases after that, depending on the progress of the Government of Libya in implementing its comprehensive strategy.

78. The Office of the Prosecutor continues to be concerned about allegations of crimes committed by rebel forces, including the expulsion of residents of Tawergha, ongoing alleged persecution of ethnic groups perceived to have been affiliated with the Gaddafi regime and specific incidents as yet unaccounted for, including the alleged execution of 50 persons on the grounds of the Mahari Hotel in Sirte, Libya, in October 2011, and alleged arbitrary detentions, torture, killings and destruction of property that arose during operations of the Government of Libya and militia operations in Bani Walid in September 2012.

79. The Office of the Prosecutor, while welcoming the first democratic election in four decades, noted that Libya faces an enormous challenge in addressing the many years of impunity.

7. Situation in Côte d'Ivoire

80. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor continued its investigation into the situation and conducted 48 missions to 5 countries for the purpose of, inter alia, collecting evidence, screening and interviewing witnesses, and securing the continued cooperation of its partners. The Office of the Prosecutor is focusing on allegations of crimes against humanity committed in violation of articles 7(1)(a), 7(1)(g), 7(1)(h) and 7(1)(k) of the Rome Statute.

8. Situation in Mali

81. On 16 January 2013, the Prosecutor formally opened an investigation into alleged crimes committed on the territory of Mali since January 2012. This decision was the result of the preliminary examination of the situation in Mali that the Office had been conducting since July 2012, and during which the Office had identified potential cases of sufficient gravity to warrant further action.

82. Since opening the investigation, the team has conducted 12 investigative missions to 4 countries.

83. The Office of the Prosecutor continues to collect information and evidence about alleged crimes on the entire territory of Mali. However, on the basis of the results of the preliminary examination, initial geographical emphasis has been given to the three northern regions.

84. The Office of the Prosecutor is, inter alia, giving particular attention to allegations concerning the intentional directing of attacks against buildings dedicated to religion and historic monuments, pursuant to article 8(2)(e)(iv) of the Rome Statute, including those that have received World Heritage status, and has accordingly cooperated with UNESCO. The Office of the Prosecutor has also sought cooperation with a number of other United Nations agencies present in Mali, including from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

B. Preliminary examinations

85. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor opened a preliminary examination of the situation on registered vessels of the Union of the Comoros, the Hellenic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia; continued preliminary examinations in Afghanistan, Colombia, Georgia, Guinea, Honduras, the Republic of Korea and Nigeria; and concluded its preliminary examination of the situation in Mali. The Office of the Prosecutor published a report on its preliminary examination activities on 22 November 2012.[2]

86. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to analyse information received from various sources alleging the commission of crimes potentially falling within the Court's jurisdiction. From 1 August 2012 until 30 June 2013, the Office of the Prosecutor received 572 communications relating to article 15 of the Rome Statute, of which 477 were manifestly cutside the Court's jurisdiction; 19 were unrelated to current situations and warranted further analysis; 43 were linked to a situation already under analysis; and 33 were linked to an investigation or prosecution.

1. Afghanistan

87. The Office of the Prosecutor is gathering and corroborating additional information to support its analysis of whether there is a reasonable basis to believe that war crimes and crimes against humanity within the Court's jurisdiction have been committed by parties to the conflict in Afghanistan. The Office continues to maintain contact with experts, civil society organizations, Afghan Government officials, United Nations officials and concerned States, and expects to reach a determination on subject-matter issues in the near future.

88. The preliminary examination of the situation in Afghanistan has been hampered by a number of constraints, including security concerns and limited or reluctant cooperation from many partners. Several requests for information sent by the Office in the past two years to various States, including the Government of Afghanistan and States with troops in Afghanistan, have been dismissed or remain pending. Ultimately, six States have replied to a formal request for information from the Office of the Prosecutor. The Office of the Prosecutor has accordingly taken steps to improve cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including the Government of Afghanistan and international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

[2] Office of the Prosecutor, Report on Preliminary Examination Activities 2012, 22 November 2012; available at www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/structure%20of%20the%20court/office%20of%20the%20prosecutor/comm%20and%20ref/Pages/Report-on-Preliminary-Examination-Activities-2012.aspx.

2. Colombia

89. The Office of the Prosecutor published an interim report on its preliminary examination of the situation in Colombia on 14 November 2012[3] that summarizes the analysis undertaken to date, including the findings of the Office regarding jurisdiction and admissibility. Pursuant to those findings, the preliminary examination will focus on: (i) follow-up on the Legal Framework for Peace and other relevant legislative developments, including jurisdictional aspects related to the emergence of "new illegal armed groups"; (ii) proceedings related to the promotion and expansion of paramilitary groups; (iii) proceedings related to forced displacement; (iv) proceedings related to sexual crimes; and (v) false positive cases.

90. The Office of the Prosecutor conducted two missions to Colombia in order to obtain additional information on measures taken by Colombian authorities to address the areas of focus identified above. The Office continued its exchange of communications with the Government of Colombia and Colombian NGOs in regard to these issues, and closely followed developments related to the Legal Framework for Peace and the implementation of the reform of military courts' jurisdiction, in particular its impact on the investigation and prosecution of false positive cases.

3. Georgia

91. During the reporting period, the Office continued to follow up on investigations into alleged crimes committed during the armed conflict and to engage with relevant stakeholders at regional and national levels. The Office sought updates on the status of national proceedings; whether any additional information remains to be provided to the Office; and whether the lack of cooperation identified as an obstacle both by the Russian and Georgian authorities may be overcome through enhanced mutual legal assistance between the two States. For this purpose, and to establish contacts with the new Government of Georgia, the Office of the Prosecutor conducted a mission to Georgia during which the Office of the Prosecutor delegation also interacted with Georgian NGOs.

4. Guinea

92. In accordance with its policy on positive complementarity, the Office of the Prosecutor has sought to encourage national proceedings in order to bring to account those bearing the greatest responsibility for the alleged crimes committed on 28 September 2009 in Conakry. During the reporting period, judicial authorities in Guinea indicted three additional officials for crimes allegedly committed on 28 September 2009. Indictees included the former Minister of Health and the current head of presidential security. This brought the total number of persons indicted in relation to the incident to eight. The Office of the Prosecutor conducted two missions to Guinea to examine progress made in the national investigation, to gauge the prospects of a trial in the near future, and to facilitate domestic and international support for the judicial proceedings.

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[3] Office of the Prosecutor, Situation in Colombia: Interim Report, 14 November 2012: available at www.icc-cpi.int/en_menus/icc/structure%20of%20the%20court/office%20of%20the%20prosecutor/comm%20and%20ref/pe-ongoing/colombia/Pages/Situation-in-Colombia-Interim-Report.aspx.

5. Honduras

93. During the reporting period, the Office of the Prosecutor continued its engagement with NGOs, regional stakeholders and senders of article 15 communications in order to gather additional information on the situation in Honduras. The Office updated its analysis on the basis, inter alia, of the report of the alternative Truth Commission (Comision de Verdad), published on 3 October 2012. The Office continued to evaluate, including on the basis of additional information received, whether the alleged crimes committed in Honduras since June 2009 amount to crimes against humanity.

6. Registered vessels of the Union of the Comoros, the Hellenic Republic and the Kingdom of Cambodia

94. On 14 May 2013, the Office of the Prosecutor received a referral by the authorities of the Union of the Comoros "with respect to the 31 May 2010 Israeli raid on the Humanitarian Aid Flotilla bound for Gaza Strip". A copy of the referral has been made available on the International Criminal Court website. The referral makes reference to seven vessels allegedly attacked, and requests the Prosecutor to investigate the incident. According to the referral, three of the vessels comprising the flotilla were registered within the Comoros, Greece and Cambodia, respectively. In accordance with the requirements of the Rome Statute, the Office of the Prosecutor initiated a preliminary examination to establish whether the criteria for opening an investigation have been met.

7. Nigeria

95. During the reporting period, the Office reached the determination that there is a reasonable basis to believe that crimes against humanity have been committed in Nigeria, namely, acts of murder and persecution attributed to Boko Haram. Therefore, the Prosecutor decided that the preliminary examination of the situation in Nigeria should advance to phase 3 (admissibility), with a view to assessing whether the national authorities are conducting genuine proceedings with respect to those who appear to bear the greatest responsibility for such crimes, and the gravity of such crimes. To this end, the Office of the Prosecutor has requested from the Government of Nigeria information on relevant proceedings in Nigeria and has carried out a mission to Abuja.

8. Republic of Korea

96. The preliminary examination is focused on two incidents: (a) the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island on 23 November 2010; and (b) the sinking of the Republic of Korea warship *Cheonan* on 26 March 2010. The Office is analysing the contextual elements under article 8 and the underlying acts, in order to determine whether the information available provides a reasonable basis to believe that war crimes were committed in the course of either incident. In addition, the Office is analysing whether either incident was committed as part of a plan or policy, in accordance with article 8(1). In July 2013, the Office received additional information on both incidents from the Republic of Korea, which will be further examined.

9. Mali

97. A report summarizing the results of the preliminary examination (the Office of the Prosecutor assessment of the article 53(1) criteria for initiation of an investigation) was published concurrently with opening of the investigation.

IV. International cooperation

A. Cooperation with the United Nations

98. The New York Liaison Office continued to promote cooperation between the International Criminal Court and the United Nations, represent the Court in various meetings, follow developments of relevance for the Court and assist in organizing relevant events and visits of senior Court officials.

99. The Court's heads of organ met with several senior United Nations officials during the reporting period, including the United Nations Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Legal Counsel, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Security and Safety, the Assistant Secretary-General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Special Representatives for Children and Armed Conflict and on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and also numerous Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, in order to discuss the relationship between the Court and the United Nations and matters of cooperation. The President addressed the General Assembly on 1 November 2012 and the Prosecutor briefed the Security Council on four occasions regarding the situations in Darfur and Libya. In addition, the Court's principals received visits at the seat of the Court from the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Representative for the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

100. The President of the Court and a representative of the Office of the Prosecutor addressed the first open debate of the Security Council held on the theme "Peace and justice, with a special focus on the role of the International Criminal Court", convened by the Guatemalan presidency of the Council, on 17 October 2012, in an effort to increase and strengthen the relationship between the two institutions. Additionally, the Prosecutor participated in informal interactive dialogue meetings with the legal advisers of States parties sitting in the Security Council.

101. The annual working level round table between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court took place through video link on 6 and 7 December 2012. The two institutions seized that opportunity to update each other on their respective developments at both the judicial and operational levels, as well as on the challenges they face. For the first time, a defence counsel was invited to reply to questions from the United Nations and discuss the cooperation and support by the United Nations to the various defence teams. The matter of support to the defence was also taken up by the Registrar during his visit to New York in July 2013, whereby agreement was reached with officials of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to further explore and develop appropriate modalities to ensure that adequate support to the defence is provided by relevant missions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs.

102. The Court continued to benefit from the logistical assistance provided by the United Nations in the countries where it carries out its activities, including through United Nations missions such as the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic. The assistance provided during the reporting period included the use of 324 United Nations flights operated by United Nations missions. Initial contacts were established in July 2013 with MINUSMA, with a view to envisaging cooperation in connection with the activities of the Court in the country. Finally, the Court is grateful for the United Nations assistance in providing technical support on issues concerning the testimony of witnesses in cases before the Court and for the Security Council having lifted the travel ban against Mr. Ntaganda.

103. The Court appreciated the adoption of the revised United Nations guidelines on non-essential contacts with persons subject to an arrest warrant issued by the Court and the presentation of said guidelines given by a representative of the Office of Legal Affairs at the Hague Working Group on cooperation.

104. The Trust Fund for Victims also benefits from the support of the United Nations and continues to work closely with different United Nations agencies at the global and country levels, including in building capacity activities of agencies implementing Trust Fund projects, ensuring relevant linkage of the Trust Fund assistance projects and domestic transitional justice initiatives, providing assistance to victims and fostering collaboration and partnership.

105. The Court is included in the United Nations security and safety arrangements in all areas of the operations of the Court and has liaised closely with the United Nations security officials in each of these locations. On 11 July 2013, the Registrar met with the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Safety and Security to discuss the amendments to the existing memorandum of understanding to reflect the modified template approved by the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Management Network in 2010. An amended agreement is expected to be adopted before the end of the present year. On 12 June 2013, the Court concluded a memorandum of understanding with UNOCI encompassing cooperation matters. Furthermore, discussions between the Court and the United Nations have taken place with a view to concluding a similar agreement with MINUSMA. Finally, the United Nations was represented at the eleventh session of the Assembly of States Parties, which was held in The Hague from 14 to 22 November 2012. The Court was very pleased with the keynote address given by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on complementarity and by the attendance of a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to the side event on the protection of witnesses.

B. Cooperation with and assistance from States, other international organizations and civil society

Technical support from States

106. The Court continues requesting the assistance of States to fulfil its mandate. During the reporting period, the Registry transmitted 691 requests for visas and 220 requests for cooperation, including 11 requests to international organizations.

The Office of the Prosecutor sent 307 requests for assistance to 54 different partners, including States parties, non-State parties, international and regional organizations and others.

107. In the context of the constant interactions of the Court with the authorities of situation countries, the new Registrar carried out his first visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 23 to 26 June 2013. With regard to the situation in Libya, and despite numerous efforts, the Registry has not yet finalized a memorandum of understanding creating a legal framework for the necessary operational arrangements of the Court in Libya. Also, the Office of the Prosecutor signed an agreement on judicial cooperation with the Government of Mali in February 2013.

108. In March and June 2013, the Court organized two high-level seminars for fostering cooperation in Nuremberg, Germany, to promote mutual understanding and cooperation between the Court and Governments, as well as international and regional organizations. Approximately 40 decision makers attended each seminar. At this occasion, two witness relocation agreements were signed with African States. Both seminars were funded mainly by the European Commission, Germany and the International Organization of the Francophonie.

109. The Court continued its urgent call for States to enter into relocation agreements. A seminar on the protection of witnesses was organized in Dakar on 25 and 26 June 2013 for French-speaking African States by the embassies of Norway, the Netherlands and Estonia, with the assistance of the Court. A similar seminar is planned for October 2013 for English-speaking countries.

110. The Court is grateful for the voluntary contributions from its States parties and from international organizations (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, European Commission, International Organization of the Francophonie and Hanns Seidel Foundation) for the different extrabudgetary activities of the Court.

Diplomatic support from States

111. In order to maintain the support to and increase the understanding of the Court, the heads of organs held numerous high-level meetings with State representatives at the seat of the Court and paid official visits to numerous countries on various continents, where they met with a number of senior State figures. The President met with a number of senior State figures, including the Presidents of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Germany, Malawi, Mali, Senegal and Slovakia. The Prosecutor made several visits to African countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Senegal and Tunisia; to Japan, as well as to a number of European countries including Finland, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, where she met with various senior Government officials. These visits paved the way for strengthening the relationship between the Court and the respective States parties in areas of cooperation and assistance. The Prosecutor also visited States not party to the Rome Statute, such as the United States, Thailand and Turkey.

112. The Court held two diplomatic briefings in The Hague in order to update the diplomatic community on the work of the Court, as well as to introduce the newly elected officials, that is, the Registrar and the Deputy Prosecutor.

Relationship with regional organizations

113. The second African Union-International Criminal Court joint seminar took place on 17 and 18 October 2012 at the African Union premises in Addis Ababa, with the purpose of establishing greater cooperation and mutual understanding. Participants included representatives of the African Union Commission and the Permanent Missions of the African Union member States, as well as officials of the International Criminal Court. The event was held with the support of the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Governments of Austria and the Netherlands. A third joint seminar is being planned in 2013. Representatives from the African Union also participated in the two high-level seminars for fostering cooperation in Nuremberg (see para. 108). On 29 July 2013, a senior African Union delegation, led by the Ethiopian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the African Union Executive Council, visited the Court and met with the President and the Prosecutor.

114. During the reporting period, the Court had various exchanges with the European Union. The President spoke at the European Parliament and held several meetings in Brussels, including with the President of the European Parliament, the Executive Secretary General of the European External Action Service, the European Union Development Commissioner and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights. The Office of the Prosecutor continued to meet on a regular basis with representatives from the European External Action Service, including the Managing Director for Africa, as well as with members of the European Parliament, who visited the seat of the Court. The Prosecutor was in contact with the Chair of the Political and Security Committee and the Office of the Prosecutor gave a briefing in Parliament on International Criminal Court situations. Finally, the Court briefed the International Criminal Court sub-area of the public international law working party on two occasions. The Court is grateful to the European Commission for financially supporting the seminar and training of Counsel, the legal tools project and the placement of interns and visiting professionals, as expressed by the Registrar during his visit to Brussels on 4 June 2013.

115. The Office of the Prosecutor has ensured continued interaction at the working level with the Office of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States.

116. The Court has continued to interact on a regular basis with the Organization of American States (OAS); the President of the Court and representatives from the Registry and the Office of the Prosecutor participated in the working meeting on the International Criminal Court in April 2013, which focused on enhancing cooperation between the two organizations.

Relationship with the civil society

117. Three strategic-level meetings were held between the Court and non-governmental organizations in The Hague, in addition to regular contacts between the Court and representatives of civil society, which continued to provide essential support to the Court.

V. Institutional developments

A. Elections and appointment

118. Herman von Hebel (the Netherlands) was elected on 8 March 2013 as the new Registrar for a five-year term. He was sworn in on 18 April 2013 and succeeds Silvana Arbia. James Stewart (Canada) was elected on 16 November 2012 as Deputy Prosecutor by the Assembly of States Parties for a nine-year term. He was sworn in on 8 March 2013.

119. Judge Anthony T. Carmona (Trinidad and Tobago) resigned from the Court effective 18 March 2013. An election to fill the vacant seat will be held at the twelfth session of the Assembly of States Parties in November 2013.

B. Assistance to and from the Special Court for Sierra Leone and United Nations tribunals

120. The Court and the United Nations or special tribunals continued to cooperate on a variety of issues. The Registrar met with the Registrars of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Special Court for Sierra Leone to discuss cooperation issues. The willingness of the Tribunal to put at the disposal of the Court its premises in the event of a trial or a hearing in situ in Arusha was much appreciated. The Court also participated in the discussions on the legacy of the United Nations tribunals. Finally, the Court welcomed the participation of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the plenary discussion on cooperation at the eleventh session of the Assembly of States Parties.

121. The Court continues to detain Charles Taylor at the request of the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

VI. Conclusion

122. The reporting period covered another increasingly busy year for the International Criminal Court.

123. It is paramount that the Court, as a judicial body, exercise its mandate in full independence. To do this, it needs strong and consistent support from the international community. It is particularly crucial that States provide timely and full cooperation to the Court in accordance with their legal obligations, and that appropriate action be taken in cases of non-cooperation.

124. The Court notes with satisfaction the adoption of a revised United Nations policy on non-essential contacts and is highly appreciative of the continued operational assistance provided by the United Nations and its agencies. The Court encourages regional organizations and States to commit to continued support.

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Questions relating to information

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 67/124 B, provides highlights of the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat on key social, developmental, political and peacekeeping issues, its contribution to United Nations observances and commemorations, matters relating to the global network of United Nations information centres, its public and civil society outreach, including to youth and the academic community, its growing presence on social media, as well as the continued role of radio, television, the internet, press outreach and meetings coverage, and developments in publishing, design and marketing. It seeks to do so by taking an integrated, department-wide approach, rather than by looking at individual divisions or work units, and bearing in mind that among the many partnerships that the Department develops and nurtures, those with Member States, individually and collectively, are among the most critical to the realization of the mission and purpose of the Organization.

* A/68/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 83 of its resolution 67/124 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session and to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of all recommendations and requests contained in that resolution. Accordingly, the Department submitted three reports for consideration by the Committee at its thirty-fifth session, held from 22 April to 2 May 2013. (A/AC.198/2013/2, A/AC.198/2013/3 and A/AC.198/2013/4). The deliberations of the Committee with regard to those reports are reflected in the report of the Committee on its thirty-fifth session (A/68/21).

2. The present report updates the information provided to the Committee on Information at its thirty-fifth session and describes developments and activities undertaken by the Department primarily between February and July 2013 through the interrelated and mutually supportive work of its three subprogrammes (relating to news and media, outreach, and strategic communications) and its Evaluation and Communications Research Unit.

Social and development issues

3. The Department continued to work to promote informed discussion on the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. This included disseminating information on the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the General Assembly workshops on transfer of technology and the establishment of the high-level political forum, as well as on various issues such as sustainable transport and oceans. In addition, the Department led efforts to define a communications strategy and the development of information products for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, scheduled to be held in September 2014.

4. Building on the success experienced in 2012, when a staff writer was sent to cover the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a similar arrangement was made to ensure the timely and comprehensive coverage of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in April 2013. During the session, the News Centre produced short multimedia packages and multiple daily news reports and conducted more than 20 original interviews in multiple languages with senior officials, experts and civil society participants. These materials were disseminated throughout the United Nations system and appeared on the websites of the World Bank and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, among others. Almost 600 articles appeared concerning the Forum, while a total of 206 videos, including news video stories, were featured at webtv.un.org.

5. The United Nations Communications Group task force, convened by the Department on a monthly basis, continued to play a key role in coordinating, in an integrated manner and throughout the United Nations system, messaging and outreach plans on the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The main web portal on the Goals (www.un.org/millenniumgoals) underwent a significant redesign to make the site more user-friendly and interactive.

The site, which is updated regularly in the six official languages, had over 470,000 unique visitors from January to mid-July 2013.

6. The Department worked closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and partners in the United Nations system to coordinate a campaign marking 1,000 days to the end of 2015, which is the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. More than 500 news articles appeared in media outlets around the world between 26 March and 14 April 2013. The Department arranged for the Secretary-General to kick off a Real Madrid football match in the capital of Spain; a video, banners and announcements on the need to reach the Goals were used on that occasion. The event was viewed, at the stadium, by an audience of over 40,000 and, on television, by an audience of millions. An op-ed by the Secretary-General entitled "A thousand days to keep the millennium promise", appeared in more than 100 news publications and websites in the six official languages, primarily through the efforts of United Nations information centres.

7. Through a United Nations system-wide social media action coordinated by the Department, the hashtag #MDGmomentum reached over 28 million unique accounts and was used in over 40,000 tweets. Social media users were directed to a special web page, available in the six official languages, with infographics and a digital card illustrating the successes achieved and the challenges remaining with regard to the Goals.

8. In conjunction with an observance at United Nations Headquarters, several Member States tweeted Goals-related messages from their official accounts using the #MDGmomentum hashtag. The Permanent Representatives of Australia and Rwanda, as co-chairs of the Millennium Development Goals Advocacy Group, participated in this effort. Messages on the Goals from Member States were posted at www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

9. The launch of the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2013* by the Secretary-General at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 1 July was complemented by more than a dozen regional and national launches organized by United Nations information centres, including in Almaty (Kazakhstan), Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi and Tokyo, as well as by the Nordic offices of the United Nations Development Programme. The Department issued press materials in the six official languages, coordinated media outreach, events and interviews and, for social media, produced shareable infographics for each Goal together with an animated video.

10. United Nations information centres promoted national and subregional consultations on a post-2015 development agenda, including in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana and Nigeria. The "My world" global survey, which helped produce and distribute a related communications toolkit and various multimedia materials, was actively promoted by the Department. United Nations information centres in Canberra, Jakarta, Manila and Rio de Janeiro, among others, launched vigorous online and offline campaigns through partnerships with local universities, national newspapers and radio stations. The Department arranged for the Secretary-General to appear in a video promoting youth participation in the "My world" survey, for distribution through the United Nations information centres. As at July 2013, the global "My world" consultations involved more than 750,000 participants.

11. The Department assisted the secretariat of the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in launching its report on 31 May and in promoting and covering the report in multiple languages and in multiple media formats. A number of United Nations information centres contributed to subsequent media and civil society events at the national level, including in Nairobi. Working with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and through the United Nations Communications Group, the Department updated joint messaging on the post-2015 agenda to reflect the latest developments in the process.

12. The Department's creative community outreach initiative partnered in the fifth annual *Envision* documentary film screening and discussion forum, entitled "Stories of the global health challenge", which focused on three key global health issues on the United Nations agenda: reversing the spread of disease, maternal health and society's approach to ageing. The event, held in April, brought together United Nations experts, film-makers and new media professionals to discuss ways to harness the power of film to affect positive social change on these issues.

13. For the past 23 years, the Department has partnered with New York festivals in presenting awards honouring the best radio, film and television programming, and public service announcements that highlight global issues on the Organization's agenda. This year, the winning entries cast a spotlight on the issues of human trafficking, environmental sustainability, immigration and social integration, and HIV/AIDS. Awards ceremonies were held in April and June.

14. In the lead-up to the General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, held in September 2013, the Department prepared promotional materials and worked with inter-agency partners to plan outreach activities, including a social media campaign, in multiple languages.

15. In March, the Department provided media support for the launch by the Economic Commission for Africa of the *Economic Report on Africa 2013*. The launch took place in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, at the margins of the annual meeting of Africa's ministers of finance and economic planning. The report was launched again in New York on 23 April; on that occasion, the Department assisted in organizing media briefings and interviews with the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa.

Political and peacekeeping issues

16. The Department, working closely with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, provided communications support in March 2013, during the Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, and in April 2013, when the Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly. The Department collaborated with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, as well as with the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations, in preparation for the fourth International Day against Nuclear Tests (29 August) and the General Assembly informal meeting to mark that day, convened by the President of the Assembly on 5 September 2012.

17. The Department, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, organized a radio workshop for United Nations peacekeeping missions in Africa. The workshop took place in Entebbe, Uganda, from 4 to 6 March. It brought together senior mission management and public information officers from the four African missions with major United Nations radio stations (the United

Nations Mission in South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in Liberia, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia) to prepare new guidance for the establishment and transitioning of United Nations peacekeeping radio stations.

18. The Department was closely involved in planning and backstopping for the public information component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, which is a new peacekeeping mission. Two staff members from the Department were temporarily seconded to the Mission for this purpose.

19. A Department staff member was part of the United Nations technical assessment mission that visited Mogadishu, Nairobi and Addis Ababa in March to make recommendations for the establishment of a new special political mission, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia.

20. In terms of providing field support to existing peacekeeping operations, Department representatives conducted assessment visits to Juba for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and to Kinshasa and Goma for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the work of the communications components of these missions.

21. The August 2013 issue of *Africa Renewal/Afrique Renouveau* focuses on current efforts by the United Nations and the World Bank to resolve conflicts and promote economic development in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

22. The Department collaborated with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, on 29 May 2013. The theme was "United Nations peacekeeping: adapting to new challenges". An interactive online communications campaign was launched in the six official languages on the United Nations peacekeeping website and on social media platforms. The News Centre, in collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, United Nations Radio and United Nations Television, produced a multimedia package of United Nations peacekeeping-related content in English, as well as in Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swahili. In March, it produced an in-depth news feature that spotlighted International Women's Day and examined the efforts of United Nations peacekeepers to end violence against women.

23. The thematic news focus pages of the News Centre portal (www.un.org/news/) were continuously updated to reflect the latest information and make available related resources on a range of issues, including on the ongoing crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, the rapidly evolving situation in the Sahel region and in Mali, and the efforts to bolster support for a United Nations-backed peace agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

24. Another multimedia feature focused on a United Nations-supported sports initiative launched in Lebanon by Tareq al Awaychi, a former star of Syrian football. One of hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, he shared his story of pulling together a team of young Syrian refugees and local Lebanese players. In another example of effective partnership, the News Centre worked with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in May

and June to create a multimedia piece about the plight of Palestinian refugees affected by the Syrian crisis and the Agency's efforts to assist them.

25. Produced in the six official languages, the *UN in Action* short-format television series continued to enhance the thematic and geographical scope of its programming through strengthened partnerships with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. During the reporting period, 11 United Nations agencies and missions, including the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, contributed free video content for the series, leading to the production of 20 stories illustrating innovative efforts and humanitarian activities undertaken by the Organization in 16 countries.

United Nations observances and commemorations

26. For the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (21 March), the Department asked social media users to post questions addressed to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Questions from people in 13 countries were received on Facebook, Google+ and Twitter, and selected answers were posted on the United Nations social media blog (http://blogs.un.org). After the International Day, and in the context of General Assembly resolution 66/144, the Department collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the production and distribution in the six official languages of a booklet entitled "United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", which combined in one publication the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the 2009 Durban Review Conference and the 2011 political declaration on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

27. The Evaluation and Communications Research Unit of the Department conducted a media monitoring and analysis project in collaboration with 21 United Nations information centres to assess media coverage of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in 37 countries, in 20 languages. United Nations key messages were present in 73 per cent of the media coverage analysed. Overall, media outlets portrayed the United Nations and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in a balanced and favourable light.

28. For the commemoration of Nelson Mandela International Day, on 18 July, the Department worked closely with the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations in planning events at Headquarters. In line with the "67 minutes of service" campaign led by the Mandela Foundation, the Department offered United Nations staff in New York the opportunity to help rebuild homes on Long Island that had been destroyed by storm Sandy. United Nations information centres in Accra, Brussels, Geneva, Lima, Manila and Pretoria, among others, organized outreach activities and events. The Department also promoted volunteering opportunities through its social media platforms.

29. Working in close collaboration with States members of the Caribbean Community and the African Union, the Department organized a series of activities to mark the sixth annual observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. The theme of the 2013 commemoration, "Forever free: celebrating emancipation", paid tribute to the emancipation of slaves in nations around the world. Commemorative activities at United Nations Headquarters included the following:

(a) A solemn commemorative meeting of the General Assembly featuring a keynote address by the Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies, Ali Mazrui, and a performance by the National Ballet of Cameroon;

(b) A briefing for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on the theme of the commemoration, webcast live, during which the issue of emancipation in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean region and North America was discussed;

(c) A global student videoconference, which brought together more than 600 students from secondary schools in France, Senegal, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America;

(d) In partnership with the United States Mission to the United Nations, the film *Lincoln* was screened at the Mission, with an introduction by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Tony Kushner; a book presentation was followed by a cultural and culinary evening featuring poetry readings, music and dance performances, a display of *khanga* fabrics from Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania and the serving of culinary specialties from Africa and the Caribbean;

(e) An exhibition was organized to display panels illustrating the history of the transatlantic slave trade, the heroes and activists, the fight for emancipation and the legacy of slavery today;

(f) Original copies of the United States Emancipation Proclamation, signed by President Abraham Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward, and of the thirteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, by which slavery was abolished, were put on display from 18 to 25 March;

(g) A concert was held featuring Benyoro, the National Ballet of Cameroon, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Artist for Peace Marcus Miller, Somi and Steel Pulse.

30. The events, which had a strong visual identity, were promoted through a variety of outreach material, such as a commemorative poster, a fence banner, postcards and T-shirts depicting the 2013 theme. As part of its outreach programme, the Department facilitated the live webcast of events organized for the observance.

31. A website in the six official languages, as well as a strong social media presence on dedicated Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr accounts, complemented the outreach activities.

32. A number of United Nations information centres organized events to commemorate the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. The United Nations Information Centre in Ankara organized a travelling exhibit at Antares shopping mall, which is visited by over 300,000 people weekly. The information centres in Brazzaville and Dar-es-Salaam organized tours of ancient slave ports for hundreds of students. The United Nations Information Centre in Lima organized the presentation of an essay by a Peruvian journalist on black women, slavery and resistance.

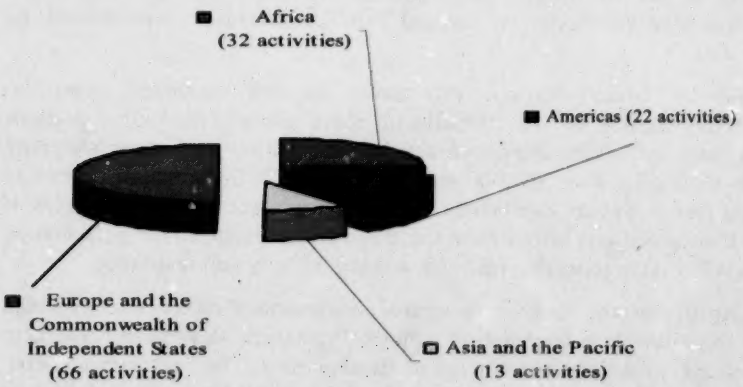
33. On 15 April, for the nineteenth annual commemoration of the Rwandan genocide, the Department, in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Rwanda to the United Nations, organized a ceremony at Headquarters. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Rwanda, among others, were present at the ceremony. A special event that was organized with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender

Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and included the screening of a 30-minute documentary entitled *Duhozanye: A community of resilience, hope and dignity*, which had been produced by a survivor of the Rwandan genocide, was held on 9 April, . On social media, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, answered questions from around the world. A video with his answers to selected questions was promoted online in English and French. The United Nations information centres in Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burundi, Congo, Eritrea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Poland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, among others, also organized commemorative events.

34. During the reporting period, the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme reached 41 countries through creative partnerships with educational institutions, NGOs and the global network of United Nations information centres. A recent review of the Holocaust remembrance activities organized in the framework of the Programme shows that most of the activities were held in Europe and Africa (see figure I). As a result, the Programme is now increasing its efforts in the Americas, through initiatives with educators in Argentina and Brazil in April and July 2013, and in Asia and the Pacific, through activities in China and Turkey later in the year. On 2 May 2013, the Programme also held its third professional development seminar for teachers and students of education at Headquarters. In addition, the Programme continues to publish educational materials in the six official languages of the Organization; the most recent publication was volume II of the *Discussion Papers Journal*, which targets university students. Papers on the Semlin internment camp in Belgrade, on the Roma and Sinti experience during the Holocaust and on the work of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, for publication in the third volume of the series, have been posted on the Programme's website.

Figure I

Number of Holocaust remembrance activities held by United Nations information centres in 2013, by region



35. The 2013 theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (9 August) was "Indigenous peoples building alliances: honouring treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements". The Department supported a panel discussion organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and raised awareness of indigenous issues through its network of information centres around the world and its social media platforms.

36. On 22 March, United Nations information centres observed World Water Day by holding seminars, workshops and briefings. The United Nations country team in Argentina, with support from the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires, celebrated World Water Day with a promotional event at the State water company, Agua y Saneamientos Argentinos, which is a member of an alliance of 11 Latin American water companies. The event was webcast throughout the region. The United Nations Information Centre in Prague hosted a discussion involving representatives of academia and businesses on the issue of water scarcity and on how to save and protect water resources.

37. The United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels, along with the United Nations Environment Programme and Fabrica (the communications research centre of the firm Benetton), produced a video supporting the global campaign "Think. Eat. Save. Reduce your foodprint" to mark World Environment Day (5 June). The video was broadcast throughout June on megascreens in Times Square (New York) and Piccadilly Circus (London), as well as on screens in the windows of Benetton stores worldwide.

38. The International Year of Quinoa was publicized by the United Nations Information Centre in Buenos Aires, which targeted *Clarín*, Argentina's largest-selling newspaper. A special section on healthy living entitled "*Buena vida*" (good life) carried a groundbreaking five-part series on quinoa. The United Nations Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro published a special feature article, produced a short *UN in Action* video with Portuguese subtitles and published a photo collection produced by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on its website. The United Nations Information Centre in Bogotá co-organized, with the national committee for the Year, an event that was attended by government officials to promote the production and consumption of quinoa in Colombia. The production and consumption of quinoa was also promoted at the twenty-sixth international book fair in Bogotá.

39. In commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of World Press Freedom Day (3 May), the United Nations information centres disseminated a message of the Secretary-General to local media. The centres in Ankara, Baku, Colombo, Rio de Janeiro and Tehran translated the message into Turkish, Azeri, Sinhala and Tamil, Portuguese and Persian, respectively. The centre in Antananarivo co-organized a two-day media workshop to train local journalists. The Director of the centre in Manama was interviewed by local media and participated in a commemoration attended by about 300 members of the Bahrain Journalists Association; both events received wide media coverage. In addition, the Director of the Strategic Communications Division participated in an international conference to mark the twentieth commemoration of World Press Freedom Day, jointly hosted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the Government of Costa Rica in San José.

40. To help publicize United Nations special days and observances, the Department launched new pages in the six official languages for the International Day of Forests, the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, the Global Day of Parents, the International Year of Water Cooperation and the International Day of Happiness. The web pages for such observances as International Women's Day, World Press Freedom Day, the International Day of Peace, World Population Day, Nelson Mandela International Day, the International Day of the World's Indigenous People and World Humanitarian Day were updated.

41. The application for iPhone and iPad *UN Calendar of Observances*, which provides information on United Nations observances and on how the Organization helps to solve today's many challenges, was downloaded over 5,000 times.

42. United Nations information centres in Accra, Antananarivo, Asunción, Baku, Bogotá, Brazzaville, Buenos Aires, Bujumbura, Colombo, Kyiv, Lagos, Lomé, Manama, Mexico City, Ouagadougou, Port of Spain, Prague, Rio de Janeiro, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Tehran, Yangon and Yerevan organized film screenings on international days and on women, genocide, sustainable development, the transatlantic slave trade and lessons of the Holocaust, among other issues.

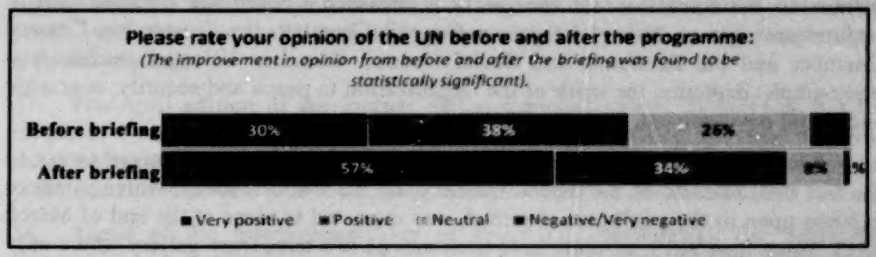
United Nations information centres

43. A number of Governments provide rent-free premises and other support to the United Nations information centres. Several centres are in temporary locations until long-term solutions can be identified. The premises for the centre in Canberra have now become rent-free thanks to a generous contribution from the Government of Australia.

44. The Department maintains its commitment to a culture of evaluation with the objective of enhancing the effectiveness of its products and activities. Evaluations are conducted by its Evaluation and Communications Research Unit and self-evaluations are conducted by programme managers with the technical support of the Unit. In addition, the network of information centres is often called upon to contribute to evaluations, especially for measuring the impact of activities worldwide.

45. The results for 2012 of the regular surveys carried out on United Nations information centres' briefings and outreach activities showed that 87 per cent of respondents found that the activity had been effective in improving their understanding of the United Nations. Moreover, participants' opinion of the Organization significantly improved after attending a briefing, as indicated in figure II below.

Figure II
Change in opinion of the United Nations among participants in briefings organized by United Nations information centres



Note: Results are based on the feedback of 3,088 respondents from 41 United Nations information centres.

Public and civil society outreach

46. In support of its outreach and partnership efforts, a newly refurbished resource centre has been made available to civil society partners. The NGO Relations Section continues to partner with other offices in the Department, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes in a wide range of activities.

47. The regular evaluation of the NGO orientation programme showed a high level of satisfaction with the programme: 92 per cent of participants said they were satisfied. Among the resources and services rated, the website for NGOs was the most often used, with 42 per cent of participants using it "often" or "very often".

48. In addition, participants at the regular briefings organized by the NGO Relations Section were, in general, very satisfied with the briefings. The sessions help NGO representatives better understand the work of the United Nations. A few suggestions were made for ways of improving the format of the briefings, including through greater use of online resources such as webcasting and social media to increase their reach and facilitate the dissemination of briefing materials. The overall ability of the briefings programme to reach a wide audience is very limited. The 2011 attendance review showed that 21 per cent of NGOs affiliated with the Department attended the briefings at least once, but that a majority did not benefit from the sessions.

49. The season finale of a widely viewed reality television series that is broadcast on a cable network in the United States as well as internationally was filmed at Headquarters in July. The episode, to be broadcast early in 2014, provides an opportunity to highlight — to a wide television audience — the role of the Organization as the pre-eminent forum where Member States come together to address global issues.

50. On 1 June 2013, the Visitors' Services Section was relocated from the General Assembly Building to its current location in the basement of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building, owing to the renovation of the former building. The Visitors' Centre "swing space" includes an exhibits space, the public inquiries counter, as well as the United Nations bookshop, stamp shop and gift shop.

51. Owing to additional security measures and access restrictions, guided tours were offered on a slightly reduced scale. Nevertheless, during the period from

March to August 2013, an estimated 82,000 visitors came to the United Nations on a guided tour. Tours are offered in the six official languages of the Organization, as well as in German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Swedish. Tours take visitors to the third floor of the newly refurbished Conference Building, where visitors are able to view the Security Council Chamber, the Trusteeship Council Chamber and the Economic and Social Council Chamber. Selected exhibits and photographs depicting the work of the Organization in peace and security, economic and social development, and human rights are also on display.

52. Between March and August 2013, only four exhibits were organized owing to the fact that, because of the capital master plan, the visitors' lobby, which is where exhibits open to the public are mounted, was expected to close at the end of March 2013. Since June 2013, exhibits have been moved to a temporary gallery where only one show can be presented at a time.

53. The Visitors' Services Section organizes guided tours and briefings and programmes for groups. In the period under review, 216 in-house briefings, 20 outside speaking engagements and 2 videoconferences were arranged, reaching a total of 35,134 participants. The Public Inquiries Unit responded to 4,809 communications, including letters, e-mails, telephone calls and petitions, as well as in-person visits, and distributed 198 educational kits. The Section's public website (http://visit.un.org) had about 215,000 visits and 640,000 page views. The Facebook page had some 8,000 followers.

Youth, educational and academic outreach

54. The Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi, who is based in the Department's Outreach Division, has been working on increasing the Organization's outreach to youth and on promoting more mechanisms for youth participation in the United Nations system. The Envoy has established strong working relations with youth groups and government officials working on youth development. The work of the Envoy on the development of a United Nations system-wide action plan on youth, which is being carried out with the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, will be guided by the World Programme of Action for Youth. The Envoy collaborates with the United Nations information centres on publishing information on the Organization's work with and for youth. An online platform has been established by the Office of the Envoy to serve as an information hub on the work being done by the United Nations for youth. The Envoy has attended youth events around the world and advocated for a stronger youth agenda at all levels.

55. To support the Global Education First Initiative launched by the Secretary-General in 2012, the Youth Assembly at the United Nations held an event on 12 July 2013, on the occasion of Malala Day. The event brought together more than 500 young leaders to accelerate action towards the goal of having all children attend school by 2015. The event featured education activist Malala Yousafzai, who celebrated her sixteenth birthday on the day. Working with many partners, the Department ensured that the event received major news coverage, including from major global broadcasters, as well as outsize attention on social media. The News Centre gave extensive coverage to the events related to the Youth Assembly.

56. During the reporting period, the NGO Relations Section organized nine briefings, a communications workshop, its annual two-day orientation programme

for new NGO representatives and a one-day youth orientation programme for new NGO youth representatives. In addition, the Section held its inaugural youth-led briefing, entitled "Raising and empowering youth to break the cycle of violence against women and children", which was organized in collaboration with NGO youth representatives and brought together more than 300 young people from different regions.

57. The April edition of the journal *Africa Renewal/Afrique Renouveau* and the magazine's website included a special feature on youth in Africa, focusing on youth unemployment and the role of youth in national politics and information technology. It included an interview with the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth.

58. Ahead of the International Day of Peace (21 September), the Secretary-General provided a 100-day countdown message on 13 June. The theme for 2013, "Education for peace", focuses on the importance of education for achieving a culture of peace (www.un.org/en/events/peaceday). The theme was chosen to support the Global Education First Initiative and highlights the importance of fostering global citizenship through education. The commemoration at Headquarters will include the Peace Bell ceremony, followed by an observance involving students, in the presence of the Secretary-General and Messengers of Peace.

59. Films and videos are increasingly being used by United Nations information centres worldwide to engage the public in thought-provoking debates that often feature film directors. As part of its "Ciné ONU" series, the United Nations Information Service in Vienna, in cooperation with a local independent cinema and in the framework of the "This Human World" film festival, organized the screening of *The First Grader* by Justin Chadwick, which focuses on the importance of education, and a panel discussion.

60. As part of its continuing support for model United Nations programmes, the Department organized a regional workshop in Vienna, from 8 to 11 July 2013, and will hold a workshop for university students and faculty advisers who manage these educational simulations, in New York from 26 to 29 August 2013. The aim of these workshops is to deepen understanding of the way in which the General Assembly operates so that the simulations can more accurately reflect the process by which resolutions are drafted and adopted at the United Nations. As a companion to the workshops, an online guide was prepared detailing the structure, procedures, negotiation process and skills needed to conduct a simulation in a way that accurately captures the essence of United Nations meetings (http://outreach.un.org/mun/guidebook/).

61. Information centres provided support to model United Nations workshops and conferences. The seven United Nations offices in the Commonwealth of Independent States expanded participation in model United Nations activities. The centre in La Paz organized four separate three-day programmes for 1,220 students, while the centre in Mexico City took part in eight programmes reaching 2,065 students, with 240 from Latin America following the programme through WebEx. In the context of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the United Nations Information Centre in Tehran organized a model United Nations event on dialogue among civilizations.

62. The Department continues to expand its partnership with the academic community through its United Nations Academic Impact programme. This initiative,

which counts more than 1,000 colleges and universities from over 120 countries as members, provides a mechanism for academic institutions to commit themselves to and undertake activities in support of the fundamental precepts driving the United Nations mandate.

63. In cooperation with ELS Educational Services, the Academic Impact initiative is organizing a global contest for university students on the theme of global citizenship. Students will have to write their entries in a language that is not their mother tongue or medium of educational instruction and, at the same time, that is an official language of the United Nations. Winners of the contest will be invited to a conference in New York in June 2014 celebrating diversity and multilingualism.

64. The Academic Impact initiative provides support to Beijing Normal University, Zhuhai, in the organization of an international youth leadership programme that promotes cross-cultural communication and collaborative academic research and focuses on cultivating a new generation of youth leaders ready to embrace social responsibility. In 2013, over 100 students from China, the United Kingdom and the United States have taken part in the training programme.

65. The Academic Impact initiative has continued to promote intercultural dialogue for building peace and understanding among peoples of different cultures and faiths. As part of its ongoing seminar series "Unlearning intolerance", on 13 May 2013 it hosted a wide-ranging discussion on "Challenging assumptions", which touched on how stereotypes are born and how easily assumptions slip into popular beliefs, sometimes without scrutiny. An international panel of experts presented diverse perspectives on assumptions and later held a dialogue with the audience.

66. The importance of intercultural dialogue was also highlighted at a special event marking 100 years since the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to the poet Rabindranath Tagore. Held on 30 May 2013 in association with the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh and India to the United Nations, the conversation focused on Mr. Tagore's message to the world and its relevance today, followed by an interpretative presentation of his songs.

Social media

67. The Department continued to enhance its news and information activities on social media platforms in the six official languages, increase the coordination of its messaging and register significant growth in fans and followers during the reporting period.

68. The audience of the United Nations channel on YouTube (www.youtube.com/unitednations), which is maintained by the Department, has increased steadily, with the number of video views exceeding 7 million and the number of subscribers to and friends of the channel growing to over 39,000. To enhance site usability and user engagement, special playlists were created to facilitate access to information on particular issues while users were encouraged to comment on the videos and to share their views on issues of concern. The selection of videos in French and Spanish was expanded as a result of a collaborative effort with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Programme. Videos based on

the *UN in Action* series were produced in Chinese and promoted on Weibo, Youku, Tudou and Sina Video.

69. The fan base of the Department's Facebook accounts in Arabic and French increased by 80 per cent, while the Russian Facebook and VKontakte accounts grew by 60 per cent. There was growth of 30 per cent in Twitter and Google+ accounts in Arabic and an increase of 25 per cent in the number of users of the Twitter account in Spanish.

70. In June 2013, the Chinese-language United Nations Weibo platform reached a milestone of 4 million followers. Also in June, the Secretary-General recorded a video message to launch a United Nations account on WeChat, a popular social networking application that has more than 400 million users. In less than a month, the WeChat account registered over 335,000 subscribers and received more than 30,000 comments and questions, some of which were answered by the Secretary-General during his official visit to China in June. A Pinterest account in French was launched in mid-May, illustrating the work of the Organization through a variety of images and links to in-depth sources.

71. The social media accounts of the News Centre portal continued to expand their following across all languages. The portal in English experienced a significant rise in the use of its materials by its followers and fans, indicating that there is significant scope for the further dissemination of its products. By June 2013, the Twitter account of the News Centre had 50,000 followers, an increase of 127 per cent over the same period in 2012. On Facebook, the number of fans grew to over 140,000, a growth rate of nearly 200 per cent compared to June 2012.

72. The United Nations Photo Twitter account gained 7,200 new followers and its Facebook page received 25,000 new "likes" during the reporting period, while its Flickr page reached the milestone of 3 million cumulative views in June 2013. Over the past six months, the NGO Relations Section continued to expand its social media platforms, specifically Twitter, Facebook and Tumblr. Social media tools successfully provided NGOs with greater opportunities for dialogue and discussion and allowed for greater interaction.

73. The Department extensively promotes United Nations publications using social media platforms. The number of followers increased to 12,900 users on Facebook and 60,200 followers on Twitter. The *Development Business* team posted more than 3,000 tweets (an average of 30 per day) and reached 1,400 followers on Twitter.

74. The Department's Africa Section continued to increase its presence online to reach the growing number of people in Africa with access to the Internet, as well as audiences in developed countries in other regions, using several social media tools. As at mid-July 2013, the *Africa Renewal/Afrique Renouveau* Twitter accounts had 47,382 followers.

75. The Evaluation and Communications Research Unit is assisting the Department's social media task force in researching the most adequate tools to optimize the use of such media through content, performance and risk management.

Radio, television and the Internet

76. Traffic to the United Nations website continued to grow, registering 19 million visits from March to June 2013, an increase of 5 per cent over the same period in 2012. Additional Internet portals included the redesigned website on United Nations action to counter terrorism (www.un.org/en/terrorism/), in the six official languages, as well as the French version of the redesigned website of the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General (www.un.org/fr/sg/spokesperson/). One of the new websites created by the Department during the reporting period is dedicated to land and natural resources in conflict (www.un.org/en/land-natural-resources-conflict/); it is a joint project with the European Union that is available in English, French and Spanish. The web page of the Committee on Information (www.un.org/en/ga/coi/) was updated with material from the Committee's thirty-fifth session, while content on the 2013 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization and the Caribbean Regional Seminar of 2013 was added to the page on the United Nations and decolonization (www.un.org/en/decolonization/).

77. The multilingual website of the News Centre (www.un.org/news/) showed noticeable growth in traffic. From March to June 2013, the site's pages in Arabic received more than 54,000 visits, representing an increase of nearly 250 per cent over the same period in 2012, the sites in Russian and Spanish registered a gain of close to 46 per cent.

78. With strengthened editorial planning and coordination between the Department's multilingual news and media producers working in all mediums, a wealth of news and features were produced by United Nations Radio throughout the reporting period, highlighting the work of the United Nations and spotlighting key themes and priority issues. United Nations Television continued to make efforts to expand the reach of its products, including through its flagship monthly television news magazine series, *21st Century*, which is aired by more than 80 broadcasters worldwide. In partnership with the China Business Network, United Nations Television began co-producing a Chinese version of *21st Century*, with four episodes already completed since the project was launched in April 2013. During the reporting period, United Nations Television producers filmed and produced stories in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East highlighting a wide range of issues on the Organization's agenda. United Nations Television continued to produce video recordings of the messages of the Secretary-General and contribute news-driven short videos for the home page of the United Nations.

79. Building on the successful production of *UN in Action* in the six official languages, United Nations Television collaborated with the Department's Web Services Section to post two-minute videos tailored to web and mobile platforms in the six official languages, allowing viewers to download stories, share them on mobile devices, embed them on their pages and post them on social media outlets.

80. Capitalizing on the improved functionality of its redesigned website (http://webtv.un.org), United Nations Webcast continued to enhance its services to a global audience by streaming live coverage of United Nations meetings and events and offering on-demand access through multiple platforms, including to smart phones and other mobile devices.

81. As part of its efforts to promote multilingualism, in June 2013 United Nations Webcast began to provide live coverage of General Assembly and Security Council

meetings in the six official languages, plus the language of the speaker (from the floor). Also for the first time, coverage of the proceedings of the International Court of Justice was integrated into the United Nations Webcast platform. Since April 2013, all cases brought to the Court have been made available live and on-demand at the United Nations Webcast site in English, French and the language of the speaker.

82. During the period under review, United Nations Webcast made available about 2,500 video clips for on-demand access by users around the world, including 220 videos from the live coverage of the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to promoting global outreach, United Nations Webcast facilitates internal communication by providing senior United Nations officials with an opportunity to reach their staff at Headquarters and in the field through live webcasts of town hall meetings and other events.

83. The Department signed an agreement with Royal Air Maroc to air United Nations Television and United Nations Radio products on its in-flight entertainment system. In addition, the airline's in-flight magazine will be open to United Nations content. Royal Air Maroc is the second airline after All Nippon Airways of Japan to sign a partnership agreement with the Department.

Press and photography coverage

84. The Department undertook a pilot programme to produce press releases in Spanish, with a one-off staff-time support from the Spanish Translation Service of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, during the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development, held from 22 to 26 April 2013. Six press releases in Spanish were posted on a dedicated website accessible to members of the Committee on Information. The pilot programme was designed to explore the feasibility of having press releases translated and made available in official languages other than English and French. The result was that press releases could not be produced in other languages, even as translations, on a cost-neutral basis.

85. Between 1 January and 31 August 2013, the Department's Meetings Coverage Section produced 2,470 press releases (9,279 pages) in English and French. About 25 per cent of that output (589 press releases) consisted of summaries of the meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, as well as of their subsidiary bodies and substantive commissions. In addition, 1,359 press releases included statements, remarks and messages from the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General and material from other United Nations offices and departments.

86. Demand for photography services continued to grow during the reporting period. United Nations Photo covered more than 900 events at Headquarters and the overseas travels of the Secretary-General. As a result, close to 5,000 images were published on the United Nations Photo website and an additional 18,000 images were added to the United Nations Photo Library.

87. Efforts continue to be made to digitize historic photographs and make them available to the public. More than 1,850 such images were processed and added to the website during the reporting period. Demands for such photographs include about 3,300 requests to the Photo Library from Member States, the media and the

general public. Over 65,000 high-resolution photographs were distributed to clients through the Library or the Photo website.

83. Between January and August 2013, the Media Liaison and Accreditation Unit processed over 700 permanent accreditations and over 1,300 temporary press accreditations in New York. The Unit provided information and logistical assistance for more than 400 stakeouts and press briefings and assisted with the media coverage of more than 90 bilateral meetings with the Secretary-General. In addition, to alert members of the press and other key partners about events at Headquarters, the Unit, working with the Department's Media Documents Centre, promoted a variety of events by sending information by e-mail and through the Twitter account, which now has more than 11,000 followers.

Publishing, design and marketing

89. A collection of 100 speeches by the Secretary-General, entitled *Building a Better Future for All*, was published by the Department to showcase the work done worldwide by the United Nations for peace, sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law. The collection was published in hardcover, paperback and eBook formats.

90. The most recent edition of *Basic Facts about the United Nations* was published in Hungarian and Italian. *UN Chronicle*, in its first issue of 2013, which was published and distributed in April, focused on the challenges and benefits of water cooperation within the context of the International Year of Water Cooperation. In its second issue, published and distributed in July, the magazine looked at the changing nature of security, with a focus on the impact of climate change on global security; cyberwar and cybercrime; pandemics; organized crime; biosecurity; and urban security. *UN Chronicle* is also available as an e-publication.

91. During the period from March to October 2013, the Department will have successfully placed 25 articles originally published in *Africa Renewal/Afrique Renouveau* in other outlets. In total, the articles will have been published an estimated 362 times in English and French in 100 media outlets from more than 25 countries.

92. The *Yearbook Express*, which contains the chapter introductions of the 2008 *Yearbook of the United Nations* in the six official languages of the United Nations, was published in April on the Yearbook's website (http://unyearbook.un.org/).

93. Since storm Sandy hit New York in October 2012, the Department has continued to provide support for the production of sales publications beyond its traditional role of distribution. The Department assisted the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to produce its report of proposed sustainable development goals, *A New Global Partnership*, by managing both production and distribution to support both sales and internal dissemination.

94. The Department was part of an inter-agency working group that finalized an intergovernmental creative commons licence. A creative commons licence works alongside a copyright and allows authors and publishers more flexibility in terms of sharing the contents of their work with the world. The implementation of creative commons licences will allow readers of United Nations publications to reuse and redistribute content for non-commercial purposes without obtaining prior

authorization from the United Nations, thus making the content more widely available.

95. Some 265 titles were published digitally and 135 titles were printed from March to mid-July 2013. Two new mobile applications were published: *ESCWA Cyber Legislation Directives*, through Apple, and *United Nations Peace Operations Year in Review* on Apple Newsstand, Amazon Fire Newsstand and Blackberry Newsstand. United Nations publications are now also available through Issuu, the world's fastest growing digital publishing platform. Since January 2013, United Nations publications have totalled 5,750 reads and 572 preview copies have been downloaded.

96. The Evaluation and Communications Research Unit is currently conducting an evaluation of publications and their availability, in conjunction with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the highest-selling publishing partner of the Department. Results are expected in the third quarter of 2013.

97. The Development Business Unit entered into collaborative arrangements for reciprocal advertising with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, Business News Americas and the Commonwealth Business Council, and is finalizing a similar arrangement with *The Economist*. An agreement to publish content at www.devbusiness.com was reached with the Organization of American States. As a consequence, membership to the website has reached an 18-month high, reflecting an increase of 10 per cent over 2012.

98. The Graphic Design Unit continued to support Organization-wide print and electronic products for publications and outreach campaigns by offering a complete creative service. During the reporting period, the graphic design team completed about 98 products for campaigns and conferences, brand identities, logos, brochures, books, posters, signage, banners and press kits. The Unit created most of its designs in the six official languages. During the reporting period, it produced high-level products such as corporate branding for the World Humanitarian Summit 2014; a visual identity programme for the High-level Meeting on Disability and Development and the accessibility centre; a series of still and animated infographics for the Millennium Development Goals 1,000 Days of Action campaign; a visual identity programme for the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth; campaign branding for the International Day of Peace; and branding for the twentieth anniversary of the launch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

99. For the duration of the renovation of the General Assembly Building, the United Nations Bookshop has been successfully relocated to the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Building (level 1B). The space is attractive to visitors and every effort is being made to maximize sales.

II. Conclusions

100. While the work of the Department is addressed in detail within the framework of its individual divisions and subprogrammes in the reports submitted each year to the Committee on Information, the present document is both a record of important developments since those reports were submitted to the Committee and an opportunity to show the integrated and cohesive manner in which the three

subprogrammes work with each other in responding to the mandates given to the Organization by Member States and in meeting the expectations of those whom Member States and the Organization seek to serve. It is this guidance and sustained global interest that allows the Department to communicate, educate, inform and involve.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-eighth session
Item 19 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/207, called for continued and enhanced efforts to assist small island developing States in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and for strengthening United Nations system support to small island developing States. The Assembly also reaffirmed the call for the convening of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014 and decided to convene in 2013 the preparatory process for the International Conference. The objective of the present report is to provide, for the consideration of Member States, an update on the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy, as well as an update on the preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 67/207, reaffirmed the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] the Mauritius Strategy[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.[4]

2. The same resolution also reaffirmed that small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique challenges, including their small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base and exposure to global environmental challenges and external economic shocks, including to a large range of impacts from climate change and potentially more frequent and intense natural disasters.

3. In the light of those reaffirmations, the General Assembly called for commitments to take urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerability of small island developing States. The Assembly also called for the convening in 2014 of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as had been called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[5] recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States.

4. The resolution stipulates that the preparation for the regional preparatory meetings for the third International Conference should be held in each of the three small island developing States regions. An interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States will also be held to identify and develop input for the Conference, while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work. In the resolution, the General Assembly decided that the national, regional, interregional and substantive preparations should be carried out in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner.

5. The present report also describes progress made towards furthering implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in accordance with resolution 67/207. The relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions,

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations Publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] Resolution 66/288, annex.

as well as regional intergovernmental organizations of small island developing States, major groups and Member States were consulted in its preparation.[6]

II. Outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

6. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development noted in its outcome document, entitled "The future we want" that small island developing States have made less progress than most other groupings or even regressed, in economic terms, especially in terms of poverty reduction and debt sustainability. It was also noted that for small island developing States overall progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals has been uneven.[5]

7. The challenges that small island developing States faced, leading to the uneven achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, extended across the economic, social and environmental sectors. In the national reports issued in preparation for the third International Conference, multiple factors were outlined as affecting the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

8. Structurally, small island developing States remain affected by limited land resources, small populations and limited economies of scale. In addition, as a result of their high susceptibility to external economic and environmental shocks, small island developing States saw the progress made following the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in 2005, stall as they suffered setbacks due to the recent global economic and financial crisis, the energy crisis and the food crisis.

9. In addition, attempts to address those structural and external challenges were further complicated by climate change and sea level rise, high debt, limited official development assistance, and frequent natural disasters. As a result, small island developing States felt on impact on social development, their economies and their ecosystems.

10. In the Caribbean region, small island developing States in general continue to face a number of constraints such as limited technical, financial and human resources, as well as the impact of exogenous factors, in particular the global financial crisis.

11. For small island developing States in the Pacific region, the recent synthesis report for the regional preparatory meeting of the third International Conference

[6] The report was prepared with input from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat; the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Port of Spain); the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Pacific Operation Centre); the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization; the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction; the United Nations Environment Programme; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Commonwealth Secretariat; and the Indian Ocean Commission. Input was also collected from the national reports of small island developing States in preparation for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

noted that the underlying causes of a lack of progress in achieving inclusive and sustainable development were unfavourable enabling environments and governance.[7]

12. The Indian Ocean Commission noted that if there is a common challenge among the highly fragmented and diverse small island developing States of the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas (AIMS) region, it is for the more economically advanced States to divert themselves from a pathway of unsustainable development, with its highly adverse impact on essential natural resources and environmental services, and to help to channel the less advanced States to a development pathway that avoids such examples of severe environmental loss in its wake.[8]

13. In addition, for the small island developing States in the AIMS region, the absence of an active institutional framework akin to those operational for many years in the other two regions presents a serious challenge to coherent region-wide development.[8]

14. What the regional outlooks underscore is that small island developing States have different challenges that have significantly affected their ability to implement sustainable development.

III. Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy

15. Despite those challenges, however, proactive initiatives have been undertaken by most small island developing States, as well as by the international community, in pursuit of the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

A. Small island developing States activities

16. In efforts to implement the Mauritius Strategy, small island developing States pursued different initiatives to accelerate national and regional implementation. There are many examples: those cited in the present report are illustrations highlighting the priority that the small island developing States are placing on the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

17. Seychelles, for example, embarked on a comprehensive water supply development plan, launched in 2011 with support from the African Water Facility, in order to resolve protracted water shortages during the dry season, including increasing the capacity of the reservoir, tackling non-revenue water and enhancing institutional capacity, among other actions. The activities are under implementation; however, the country is still experiencing persistent water shortages until those projects are completed.[9]

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[7] "Pacific regional synthesis report for consideration by the Pacific regional preparatory meeting, 10-12 July 2013, Nadi, Fiji". Available from sids2014.org.

[8] Indian Ocean Commission, "The divided region: progressing Rio+20 outcomes in the AIMS region, report for IOC".

[9] National reports are available from sids2014.org.

18. Similarly, in an attempt to address the possible impact of climate change on its economy and its citizens and their livelihoods, Mauritius developed and implemented the "Maurice Ile Durable" programme as well as the Government Programme 2010-2015.[9] This national sustainable development strategy has seen the development of a climate change mitigation and adaptation framework. In the framework, several priority sectors such as disaster risk reduction and management, renewable energy, water, coastal zones, fisheries, tourism, public infrastructure, health and agriculture have been targeted and actions are being taken at different levels, including policy and legislative review, the application of long-term dynamic tools, institutional strengthening, infrastructural works, the promotion of research and development, awareness-raising, education and training.

19. In the Pacific, the Tonga Energy Road Map 2010-2020[7] was developed and provides a detailed pathway towards a low carbon, cost-effective, technically sound, equitable transformation of the entire energy sector in Tonga, while in Papua New Guinea the Government established the Sovereign Wealth Fund in 2011 to support macroeconomic stabilization, the development objectives of the Government, including long-term economic and social development, and asset management in relation to assets accrued from natural resource revenue.[9]

20. In 2011, Belize established the National Climate Change Committee as a broad-based multi-stakeholder committee composed of non-State public and private sector members to coordinate the implementation of policies and measures designed to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on the environment and to adapt to such changes. It is expected that the Committee will facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change policies.

21. In Guyana, the Low Carbon Development Strategy, updated for 2010, provides an overarching national framework for the transformation of that country's current economy to that of a "low-carbon economy".

22. Regionally, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility signed a memorandum of understanding in August 2011 to better assist Caribbean countries in the development of their climate change adaptation strategies, while members of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in the Pacific have committed to promoting green growth as a tool and as a development approach to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development.

23. Additionally, the ninth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas will take place in Fiji in December 2013, where a new five-year Action Strategy for Nature Conservation will be formulated.

B. Support by the United Nations system and regional and international organizations

24. To strengthen the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, entities of the United Nations system have put a stronger emphasis on small island developing States in their work. While United Nations system entities focus on different areas of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, collectively they provide substantial support to small island developing States.

25. At the global level, the Small Island Developing States Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat has been entrusted with a broad range of functions aimed at providing support for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, including but not limited to technical assistance and advice, support to the intergovernmental process, inter-agency coordination and reporting on progress made.

26. The Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States is mandated to undertake advocacy work in support of small island developing States and to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy.

27. At the regional level, the regional commissions have the responsibility of advocacy and the coordination of support to small island developing States, while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided assistance with implementation at the national level.

28. The inter-agency consultative group, chaired by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, helps to ensure coordination among many activities by the United Nations system and other regional and international organizations. The "ECESA plus", a mechanism used for the preparation of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, has continued to be a useful channel for United Nations system coordination. It also ensures coordination of the United Nations system for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

29. United Nations entities are actively involved in the strengthening of information exchange and facilitating networking among stakeholders. The Small Island Developing States Network, SIDSNet (sidsnet.org), continues to provide a general portal of information on the small island developing States and the sustainable development agenda, while the third International Conference website (sids2014.org) provides more specific information on the Conference itself.

30. The Small Island Developing States Unit has facilitated the development of a joint education programme on sustainable development for small island developing States, helping to strengthen the collaboration within the small island developing States University Consortium. The initiative is an excellent example of cooperation among universities based in small island developing States regions, including the University of the West Indies, the University of the South Pacific, the University of Mauritius, the University of the Virgin Islands and the University of Seychelles. Funded by the Government of Spain, the project has developed a common platform for accessing online courses offered to registered students at member universities.

31. The lack of an effective monitoring framework for global commitments related to the sustainable development of small island developing States has been frequently noted. Small island developing States have repeatedly called for the strengthening of national disaggregated data and information systems, as well as the strengthening of analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and the development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles.

32. The key issue is not only the availability of reliable data and information, but also the need for analytical frameworks to be used as decision-making tools both for small island developing States and as a basis for developing criteria beyond gross

domestic product (GDP) for assessing the status of vulnerability and resilience of small island developing States on a country-by-country basis.

33. Efforts are under way to develop a country vulnerability-resilience profile as a monitoring and evaluation tool/handbook through expert consultations and pilot testing in a number of small island developing States countries, to be available early 2014.

34. With respect to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has conducted assessments of the social and economic effects of climate change on agriculture, coastal and marine resources, health, energy, tourism and water in the Caribbean region.

35. Recommendations have been made for adaptation and mitigation strategies based on cost-benefit analyses. In the area of mitigating the impacts of climate change, ECLAC is currently implementing an initiative funded by the German Agency for International Cooperation that provides support to Aruba, the Bahamas and Suriname in completing national energy policies. ECLAC is also conducting an analysis of the fiscal and regulatory barriers to the implementation of energy efficiency measures and renewable energy technologies.

36. With respect to tourism, efforts have focused on examining strategies for the further diversification of the tourism economy in the Caribbean. In that regard, research is ongoing towards completing a recreational demand study of the yachting and marina sector in order to inform policymaking for the further development of this subsector.

37. ECLAC is currently conducting a study entitled: "The impact of trade and growth in the Caribbean". Initial results indicate that trade within the region has been very limited and the recent crisis has constrained trade even further. Regional trade is now just 13 per cent of total Caribbean trade. The global recession affected trade by limiting the demand for Caribbean exports, and that in turn has affected growth. The great challenge in the Caribbean region is to develop new products to sustain exports to new markets while promoting exports to existing markets. ECLAC is also focusing on how Caribbean cultural service providers, including musicians, dramatists and fashion designers, can establish a more successful commercial presence in the European Union.

38. In the area of knowledge management, the focus is on the use of information and communications technologies in support of disaster risk management in the Caribbean as well as building capacity in the use of information and communications technology tools to address disaster risk management in the information society.

39. In the area of gender and health, ECLAC, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has prepared a profile identification of the main barriers and opportunities linking gender and health.

40. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) intersectoral platforms include a platform entitled "Contribution to the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the sustainable development of small island developing States" and are an innovation in the way UNESCO conceives,

manages and implements its programme in an interdisciplinary manner. The platforms define a joint strategy and establish operational teams made up of colleagues working in various sectors and, most importantly, in various regions and countries of the world.

41. Involving all five programme sectors and field offices covering small island developing States, the platform ensures that the unique multidisciplinary expertise of UNESCO in science, culture, climate change and education for sustainable development, in natural, cultural and intangible heritage and in the articulation of scientific and indigenous knowledge and knowledge management and information for decision-making is productively used in addressing the multiplicity of challenges facing small island developing States.

42. UNESCO also addresses the challenges of preparing skilled graduates for the needs of the small island developing States labour market, through strengthening technical and vocational education and training. Programmes target primarily the significant percentage of out-of-school youth and aim to empower them with skills that will help them contribute to the development of their society.

43. The global Sandwatch programme supported by UNESCO makes a significant contribution towards tackling climate change and coastal monitoring issues. Sandwatch has been integrated into the national school curriculum in the Pacific island nation of Kiribati. The integration of Sandwatch into the Kiribati curriculum allows teachers and students to understand and contribute to global climate change observations through first-hand practical activities in their local environment.

44. Several new sites on small island developing States were added to the World Heritage List, including the Phoenix Island marine protected area in Kiribati, the Bikini Atoll nuclear test site in the Marshall Islands and historic Bridgetown and its garrison in Barbados. Five small island developing States (Fiji, Jamaica, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu) ratified the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

45. Pacific islands and territories are currently carrying out the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan (2010-2015). UNESCO has been coordinating a hub of regional agencies, non-governmental organizations, experts and communities with the aim of enhancing knowledge management, capacity-building and partnership building in the management of the Pacific heritage. In the Caribbean, the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme is now fully operational and benefits 16 Member States and 20 World Heritage Sites. It also builds and strengthens capacities in heritage management, fosters cooperation in the region and contributes to understanding the synergies between heritage conservation and new developments.

46. The preservation and promotion of local and indigenous knowledge has been implemented by UNESCO in several small island developing States, including the Solomon Islands through working with teachers and local communities and in Timor-Leste through activities such as action research, the development of environmental educational materials and training sessions, emphasizing the important role of local and indigenous knowledge in disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and community-based resource management.

47. Under the framework of the small island developing States intersectoral platform in the Indian Ocean, the Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles and Réunion (France) are supported in the transmission and recognition

of traditional medicine through the formation of a subregional network of practitioners. They will support each other to exchange best practices and dialogue with policymakers and scientists, develop good practice guidelines and ethical codes, improve the sustainable use of plant resources and develop appropriate education programmes.

48. Through the Youth Visioning for Island Living initiative, which promotes capacity-building and the involvement of youth in the sustainable development of small island developing States, young people are given the opportunity to design, plan, implement and evaluate climate change, as well as projects related to health (HIV/AIDS) in their islands. The initiative is under implementation in Dominica, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Jamaica, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles and Niue.

49. Scaling the economic impact of disasters provides a clearer picture on how development in small island developing States is affected by disasters. For example, Cyclone Evan, which hit the South Pacific in 2012, resulted in total losses equivalent to one third of the annual economic output of Samoa. Similarly, losses associated with the 2010 earthquake in Haiti are estimated to have exceeded 15 per cent of GDP. Given their small size, individual hazard events such as cyclones may affect an entire territory and economy. Disasters can therefore destroy decades of capital investment and hard-fought development gains and are often followed by slow and costly recovery. The increased indebtedness and constrained fiscal space can have long-term developmental consequences.

50. Countries with low levels of investment and high average annual losses are less likely to be able to absorb losses, even from more frequent, less severe events. For example, Jamaica observed annual average losses due to disasters between 1991 and 2011 that were equivalent to 2.6 per cent of its average annual investment. That contributed to its sluggish growth over that period.[10] Similarly, Vanuatu and Tonga are estimated to sustain average annualized losses at 6.6 and 4.4 per cent, respectively.[11]

51. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction supported consultations on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action, in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Both regions drew on their experiences of implementing regional strategies in support of the Hyogo Framework for Action. In support of ongoing consultations, a study, jointly supported by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the UNDP, analysed current levels of integration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the Pacific, with an emphasis on the institutional and policy environment.[12]

52. The Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management met in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 17 to 21 September 2012, and committed to developing an integrated regional strategy for disaster risk management and climate change, to commence in 2016.

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[10] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, *From Shared Risk to Shared Value — The Business Case for Disaster Risk Reduction* (Geneva, 2013).

[11] Abhas K. Jha and Zuzana Stanton-Geddes, *Strong, Safe, and Resilient: A Strategic Policy Guide for Disaster Risk Management in East Asia and the Pacific* (Washington, D.C., the World Bank, 2013).

[12] United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNDP, *Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific* (Suva, 2012).

53. The seventh Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 3 to 7 December 2012, on the theme "Building disaster resilience — a shared responsibility". With the region's comprehensive disaster management strategy (2007-2012) approaching its end, the Conference assessed the level of progress, reviewed the gaps and articulated a strategy beyond 2012.

54. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) continues to implement a number of projects and initiatives in support of the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy. Those projects and activities were implemented within global and regional projects and initiatives for and with the engagement of small island developing States.

55. In the Caribbean region, the major initiatives of UNEP include, but are not limited to, the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management in Caribbean small island developing States, a project to transform Dominica into an environmentally sound organic island and the Caribbean Biological Corridor project.

56. Within its ecosystem management subprogrammes, UNEP has started an island ecosystem management initiative in which a whole island is recognized as an ecosystem, applying the ecosystem-based approach to promote optimum use of island ecosystem services for human benefits and sustainable island development. On the basis of existing tools and methodologies, UNEP in 2012 started working with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme to establish good practices in supporting such a management approach, and once that is further developed, replication of the work in other regions of small island developing States will be expected.

57. The UNEP project on advancing Caribbean States' sustainable development agenda through green economy started in August 2012, targeting CARICOM member States and starting with pilot countries of Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. The overall objective of the project is to enable countries in the Caribbean to advance sustainable development through the design and implementation of policies that result in a strong and sustainable economy that is environmentally responsible and socially inclusive. The project will lead to four main outputs: (a) a regional multi-stakeholder green economy network and similar platforms in the three pilot countries; (b) country-relevant investment and policy menus; (c) a Regional Centre of Excellence on green economy; and (d) a region-specific green economy capacity-building portfolio.

58. UNEP is preparing its publication on sustainable consumption and production best practices in Mauritius. The information in that publication should be relevant to all small island developing States in supporting appropriate measures to promote resource and energy efficiency and sustainable infrastructure with a view to accelerating the shift from bad consumption and production habits to a more sustainable lifestyle.

59. UNEP is also implementing the Sustainable Public Procurement and Ecolabelling Project. Within the project, and based on the experience acquired by UNEP on ecolabelling and sustainable public procurement, the project seeks to combine the two instruments to achieve maximum synergies and better deliver the common goal of stimulating the demand and supply of sustainable products.

60. UNEP is supporting the development of national contributions to the global monitoring plan under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. The countries that receive support include, but are not limited to: Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Palau, Solomon Islands, Samoa and Niue. UNEP also published a report on passive air sampling under the global monitoring plan for persistent organic pollutants in March 2012. It summarizes the work and the results of the monitoring of persistent organic pollutants in support of the global monitoring plan according to article 16 of the Stockholm Convention. Ambient air concentrations of persistent organic pollutants are compared around the world. The report includes 14 small island developing States in the Pacific region, Africa and the Caribbean.

61. UNEP engaged as well in extensive activities addressing the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in climate change and energy resources, coastal and marine resources and resources biodiversity resources, and institutional strengthening.

62. UNEP is coordinating the Regional Seas Programmes under its global Regional Seas Coordination framework. Each year coordination meetings are organized by UNEP. Representatives from relevant Regional Seas Programmes participate in the coordination activities, including the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (based on the Noumea and Waigani Conventions), the Caribbean Environment Programme (Cartagena Convention), the Nairobi Convention, the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention, and the Abidjan Convention. Issues related to small island developing States were also discussed in the coordination meetings, such as the green economy and island-based ecosystem management. Each relevant Regional Seas Programme implemented activities specific to small island developing States.

63. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assisting in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy in the Caribbean and Asia and Pacific regions where most of the small island developing States are located. For example, FAO has supported a number of activities through technical and trust fund projects in the Caribbean and the Pacific Island States, notably in strengthening risk management capabilities, promoting climate change adaptation and ensuring food security and protecting biodiversity. A thematic website is under development to show the work of FAO in different areas through establishment of a dedicated website (fao.org/sids). In addition, a global e-consultation was launched with the objective of encouraging dialogue and seeking inputs that will contribute to the preparatory process aimed at addressing the main challenges and opportunities for small island developing States.

64. Support has been provided to the regional preparatory meetings (Caribbean, Pacific, and AIMS) for the third International Conference on small island developing States through the organization and financing of side events, participation in panel and round-table discussions, presentations during plenary session and bilateral discussions. Efforts were made to provide substantive and technical inputs to delegations on the topics within the mandate and core area of FAO during the preparatory process.

65. At the end of 2012, FAO signed a memorandum of understanding with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States to strengthen collaboration on food insecurity, malnutrition, hunger, natural resources management and climate change, and a variety of international funds are being mobilized to facilitate the agreement.

66. The Commonwealth Secretariat has a long history of targeted research and advocacy on behalf of the small island developing States. From 2012 to 2013 the Secretariat, through its ongoing consultative process with small island developing States, sought to identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, and expand existing networks and identify partners for collaborating on key activities.

67. The resulting programme of activities in support of small island developing States focused on building resilience, migration and development, tourism, the Millennium Development Goals and building capacity. The Commonwealth Secretariat also used its convening power to host several major international meetings and conferences that brought together small island developing States and key development partners. The meetings provided an effective platform to influence outcomes in support of small island developing States in key institutions that influence global resource allocation. In the context of the Secretariat's advocacy and policy research programme on behalf of small States, the Secretariat conducted several studies that were aimed at enhancing the understanding of the unique challenges that those countries face in their quest to reduce their vulnerabilities and strengthen resilience.

68. In March 2012, the Commonwealth Secretariat convened a meeting of experts on migration and development in Jamaica to discuss developmental challenges and benefits of migration in small island developing States and other small States. The findings of several studies commissioned by the Secretariat on migration and development in small States were shared. The studies, which covered migration and development issues in small island developing States and other small States from the Pacific, Caribbean and AIMS regions, were further refined through the consultation and will be published as a book by the Secretariat in October 2013.

69. As part of its ongoing efforts to build capacity in small island developing States, the Commonwealth Secretariat developed and delivered a framework known as International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development, which provides policymakers and development practitioners in small island developing States and other small States with an understanding of the tools and the governance frameworks at different levels of governance, from local to international, to effectively implement sustainable development in their respective countries.

70. The Commonwealth Secretariat continued to work closely with the World Bank. The Secretariat participated in the annual small States forum held during the International Monetary Fund/World Bank annual meetings, and worked jointly with the World Bank on a workshop on data challenges facing small island developing States and other small States. The two institutions also recognized the importance of the tourism sector and its potential catalytic role in those economies and commissioned three studies to explore the transmission mechanisms of tourism to the development of small States. The studies were presented and discussed at the Second Global Biennial Conference on Small States, held in 2012, and will be published in a forthcoming book, entitled *Tourism and Inclusive Growth in Small Island Developing States*.

71. The Commonwealth Secretariat signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Ocean Commission and the Commonwealth of Learning to ensure the

continued delivery of a training course on the International Architecture for Environment and Sustainable Development framework in the Indian Ocean region.

72. The Commonwealth Secretariat has supported the development of a partnership between the regional organizations of small island developing States in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific regions focused on climate financing and sustainable development concerns. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat facilitated a side event on 20 June 2012 with the Indian Ocean Commission, the secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre on pathways to climate-resilient, low-carbon economies. The event included a film and debate on priority concerns of small island developing States in the Conference process and the signing of memorandums of understanding between the organizations.

IV. Preparations for the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States

73. As outlined above, the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly adopted resolution 67/207 on convening the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, as asked for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.[5]

74. Resolution 67/207 also set out the modalities for the preparations of the Conference. In paragraph 5, it was decided that the Conference should:

(a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;

(b) Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

(c) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;

(d) Identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

75. In preparation for the International Conference, the Secretary-General of the United Nations appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs to be Secretary-General of the Conference.

76. National consultations were held in small island developing States prior to regional meetings, resulting in national reports, which led to regional synthesis reports.[13]

77. As mentioned above, the regional preparatory meetings stipulated in the resolution were held in July 2013, in Fiji, Jamaica and Seychelles and the interregional meeting will be held in August in Barbados. The process will be completed before the modalities resolution for the global process for the International Conference is adopted, and the global process itself begins later this year. The regional preparatory meetings helped to concretize regional priorities for the Conference.

Caribbean regional preparatory meeting

78. The outcome stressed the ongoing challenges that Caribbean small island developing States face, including climate change, natural disasters, crime and violence, high rates of unemployment — especially among women and youth — and the resulting brain drain, non-communicable diseases and other health concerns, and debt. It called on the international community to support small island developing States through technology transfer, capacity development, the capitalization of the Green Climate Fund and the promotion of renewable energy, among other actions. Caribbean small island developing States also expressed the urgent need for development partners to consider measures other than per capita GDP when making decisions regarding financial assistance and debt relief.

Pacific regional preparatory meeting

79. Climate change and ocean-related issues figured prominently in the Pacific outcome document of the regional meeting. Other issues raised included health, especially non-communicable diseases, social protection and inclusion, information and communication technologies, transport and energy and renewable energy. To advance those and other priorities, the representatives of the Pacific region decided to propose a theme for the third International Conference: "The sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas region regional preparatory meeting

80. Central to the outcome of the meeting was the concept of the "blue economy", encompassing the full range of economic and social development that the ocean can drive. The AIMS region addressed issues of peace and security, especially in the face of international piracy and organized crime, as well as renewable energy, non-communicable diseases, special financing mechanisms and trade instruments for small island developing States, sustainable management of national resources and the need for a strengthened AIMS regional coordination mechanism and institutional support for small island developing States.

81. Following the regional preparatory meetings, the small island developing States began preparations for the interregional preparatory meeting, which would contribute to the global preparatory process for the third International Conference.

[13] For more information on the reports, see sids2014.org.

Small island developing States were also expected to engage in discussions on the International Year of Small Island Developing States while also discussing the preparations for the Conference.

82. Those activities during the International Year of Small Island Developing States will help the international community to consider how much of the Mauritius Strategy has already been implemented and to ensure that the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy will be advanced at the third International Conference.

V. Expert Group Meetings as substantive inputs into preparations for the third International conference on small island developing States

83. There were a number of Expert Group Meetings organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UNEP, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and others, often jointly, which were specifically targeted to provide substantive inputs to the small island developing States preparatory process.

Expert Group Meeting entitled "Strengthening partnerships towards disaster risk reduction for small island developing States"

84. The meeting was held at the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and was organized by the Office of the High Representative and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The importance of preparedness was stressed as being of vital importance, including the use by authorities of simple language and graphics to explain hurricanes. Those messages have been translated into guidelines and recommendations and broadcast as early warning messages through various media. Integrating disaster risk reduction into education and awareness curricula from primary school level upwards, and including at the grass-roots/community level, was also stressed as an important avenue for improving preparedness and building capacity for resilience.

Expert Group Meeting entitled "The Significance of marine science and technology and importance of capacity-building and marine technology transfer to small island developing States"

85. The meeting was organized by the Office of the High Representative, UNESCO, the Indian Ocean Commission and the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. It concluded that, for small island developing States, the ocean is an issue that clearly cuts across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of their sustainable development objectives. Small island developing States have demonstrated leadership in managing the living marine resources that occur under their respective jurisdictions and are again leading the way on matters concerning exploration and exploitation of non-living marine resources. The need to build capacities and scientific know-how remains a crucial component for the States' sustainable development aspirations and indeed for tackling the multifaceted adaptation and mitigation requirements of climate change.

Symposium on Understanding Ecological and Social Resilience of Island Systems

86. The Symposium was organized by the Office of the High Representative in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, and participants stressed that island ecosystems present unique challenges for conservation owing to distinctive ecological and evolutionary processes and vulnerability to threats. It was recalled that biological diversity on islands was not only of global importance but likewise was suffering from numerous threats, including natural disasters, diseases, overexploitation, deforestation, the drainage of wetlands, the loss of habitat, illegal trade in endangered species and climate change. The secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity considers species on islands to be at most risk of extinction. To date, 95 per cent of bird, 90 per cent of reptile, 69 per cent of mammal and 68 per cent of plant extinctions worldwide have occurred on islands.

Expert Group Meeting entitled "Small island developing States and the post-2015 development agenda"

87. Organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, key issues identified for consideration are set out below.

Social dimension of sustainable development

88. For development in small island developing States to be truly sustainable, social issues must be given a new prominence in the post-2015 development agenda. Inequality itself can inhibit growth, and those involved in setting the post-2015 development agenda are urged to work towards social inclusion by addressing a range of social development issues, including: (a) supporting and creating opportunities for employment for all demographic groups; (b) attention to women's empowerment and to issues of importance which have not previously been specified in the Millennium Development Goals, such as domestic violence; and (c) strengthening the quality of education and health services, rather than focusing only on quantity of services, and expanding tertiary and vocational education.

Addressing debt and access to global capital markets

89. The economic challenges of small island developing States are urgent, especially those of Caribbean countries with high debt burdens, those lacking access to global capital markets and those barred from access to concessional financing owing to their categorization as "middle income countries" on the basis of GDP. To address those challenges, the international community must consider reforms to the global financial architecture in order to create an environment that encourages investment in the resiliency of small island developing States. Small island developing States also need differentiated treatment and access to concessional financing based on the fair assessment of their respective vulnerabilities and resilience.

Addressing the existential threat of climate change

90. Climate change remains the central threat for many small island developing States, not least because sea-level rise may undermine their territorial integrity. The developed world holds the responsibility for climate change mitigation through the reduction of carbon emissions. The urgent need for financing for adaptation and the development of a loss and damage mechanism was highlighted.

(i) Energy dependency and the need to develop renewable energy resources

(j) Increasing degradation and scarcity of water resources

(k) Reaching the limit of land capacity

(l) Waste for resources

(m) Indiscriminate and increasing use of pesticides

(n) Synergizing local, traditional and modern science as a basis for sustainable island development

(o) Developing an ocean-based blue-green economy

(p) Overfishing and potential collapse of inshore marine ecosystems

(q) Unique human capacities for island sustainability

(r) Climate and environmental change driving population displacements

(s) Exploring the potential of unexploited natural resources in small island developing States

(t) Global contaminants affecting small island developing States

(u) Impending agro-ecosystem breakdown and loss of agrobiodiversity

95. The social and economic issues identified in the course of the meeting and its preparations included:

(a) Need to diversify small island developing States economies

(b) Innovative approaches to debt relief

(c) Shoring up traditional local and indigenous knowledge

(d) Reinforcing social cohesion

(e) Rediscovering opportunities for youth

(f) New challenges in gender

(g) Health challenges in small island developing States

(h) Preserving an authentic cultural heritage and identity

(i) Making tourism sustainable

(j) Climate and economic drivers of migration

(k) The future of food security in small island developing States

(l) Freshwater management for the twenty-first century

(m) Need for enhanced disaster preparedness

(n) Economic and social impact of climate change

(o) Diminishing resources for development financing

Strengthening monitoring systems and the data underpinning them

91. The experts recommended that the strengthening of the data gathering and analysis capacity of small island developing States should be approached with an eye to bolstering knowledge management systems and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The frameworks should be piloted at the national level and then rolled out to a regional and then global scale. It is crucial that data collection methodologies and monitoring and evaluation frameworks are user-friendly and based on bottom-up consultative processes. With that approach, a framework will accurately reflect the vulnerability and resilience of small island developing States as well as the heterogeneity within and among the three regions.

Advancing high-quality partnerships

92. The experts were of the view that, in the post-2015 development landscape, partnerships have the potential to advance a new paradigm in development cooperation, moving beyond the traditional donor-recipient relationships.

Expert Group Meeting entitled "Emerging issues in small island developing States"

93. The meeting was held as part of the "Foresight" process initiated by UNEP, which uses a methodology originally designed to identify emerging environmental issues in the lead up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. UNEP decided to apply the methodology with a focus on small island developing States. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs joined the work by bringing together experts from small island developing States for parallel discussions and to explore interlinkages. The experience of the Expert Group Meeting has led the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNEP to explore a more integrated approach to identifying and refining emerging issues in the future, with great potential benefits for the advancement of holistic sustainable development in small island developing States and beyond.

94. The emerging environment issues identified through the "Foresight" process initiated by UNEP and narrowed down at the meeting came up with the following themes, which are being further refined:

(a) Invasive alien species

(b) Irreversible loss of tropical montane cloud forest

(c) Coastal squeeze: coastal deforestation and loss of ecosystem services

(d) Pacific deep-sea minerals mining and associated risks

(e) Disproportionate impact of climate change and sea-level rise in small island developing States

(f) Intensification of extreme events and external shocks and increasing vulnerability of small island developing States

(g) Accelerated beach and coastal erosion and breakdown in the sand and sediment budget

(h) Accelerating decline of ecosystem functions affecting food and livelihood security

VI. Conclusion

96. As noted in the outcome of the Mauritius Strategy +5 Review, and during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, small island developing States have had an uneven path towards the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes of action. There have been successful activities, however, by both small island developing States themselves and by the international community.

97. It is envisioned that the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will provide renewed political commitment towards the sustainable development of small island developing States, while helping Member States to prepare for the post-2015 development agenda. The activities throughout 2013, and the planned activities for 2014, including for the International Year of small island developing States, will also help in raising awareness of the challenges faced by small island developing States and advancing strategies to address those challenges.

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Rights of indigenous peoples

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 21/24.

* A/68/150.

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Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Summary

This is the final report of the current Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, to the General Assembly. The Special Rapporteur devotes the first part of the report to describing his activities since beginning his mandate, while identifying work methods and lessons learned, as well as both positive experiences and challenges in his work. Later in the report, he addresses factors that debilitate commitment to and action by States and other actors to implement the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, drawing upon the Special Rapporteur's experiences over the past years. The objective of this discussion is to advance thinking that will help to overcome these debilitating factors in favour of concrete measures of implementation.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is being submitted to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 21/24. This is the final report of the current Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, James Anaya, to the Assembly, as his mandate expires on 30 April 2014.

2. In the light of this, the Special Rapporteur devotes the first part of the report to describing his activities since beginning his mandate, while identifying work methods and lessons learned, as well as both positive experiences and challenges in his work. He hopes that the report, in addition to providing an up-to-date account of his activities, will be of use to the next Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples as she or he enters into the position, as well as to other special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council as they continue to reflect on their own work methods.

3. The Special Rapporteur is specifically mandated to promote the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and consequently, he considers the Declaration to constitute the primary normative framework for carrying out all aspects of his work. The latter part of his report addresses factors that debilitate commitment to and action by States and other actors to implement the Declaration, drawing upon the Special Rapporteur's experiences over the past years. The objective of this discussion is to advance thinking that will help overcome these debilitating factors in favour of concrete measures towards implementation.

4. The Special Rapporteur would not have been able to carry out the work described in the present report without the support of various individuals and institutions. He would like to express his gratitude to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for its support to him during his mandate over the years. He would also like to thank the staff, consultants, researchers, and students of the support project for the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples at the University of Arizona for their assistance in all aspects of his work, and to the University of Arizona College of Law for its flexibility and accommodation of his work as Special Rapporteur. Finally, he would like to thank the numerous indigenous peoples, States, academics, and other experts who have cooperated with his mandate over the past years in the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

II. Activities pursuant to the mandate

A. Areas of work

5. From the first years of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur devoted significant attention to refining his work methods within the terms of his mandate provided by the Human Rights Council. He has tried developing work methods oriented towards building a constructive dialogue with Governments, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, relevant United Nations agencies and others in order to address challenging issues and situations and build on advances already made. He hopes that future work of the mandate will be able to focus more on moving beyond reacting to denouncements of alleged human rights violations, to

helping to assist indigenous peoples and States to develop concrete proposals and programmes of action for advancing the rights of indigenous peoples.

6. The Special Rapporteur provides below a summary of activities, which fall within four interrelated work areas: promoting good practices; country reports; cases of alleged human rights violations and thematic studies. Along with describing his activities, the Special Rapporteur provides comments on his achievements and on the difficulties he has faced within these areas of work, and identifies outstanding issues concerning work methods that merit further attention.

1. Promotion of good practices at the national and international levels

7. The Special Rapporteur has a specific mandate from the Human Rights Council, set out in its resolution 15/14 to examine ways and means of overcoming existing obstacles to the full and effective protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, and to identify, exchange and promote best practices. In this connection, he has engaged in a range of activities throughout his mandate to advance legal, administrative and programmatic reforms at the international and the national levels in accordance with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as well as other international instruments relating to the human rights of indigenous peoples.

8. Many of these activities have taken place in relation to other work areas, that is, in the development of country reports, thematic studies or responses to cases of alleged violations of human rights. These other work areas are standard for special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, regularly supported by the Secretariat. However many of the activities engaged in by the Special Rapporteur to promote good practices have been separate and apart from such standard work areas, very often in response to specific requests by Governments, indigenous peoples and United Nations agencies. The Special Rapporteur's work to promote good practices has therefore required resourcefulness and innovation.

9. Central to the Special Rapporteur's promotion of good practices at the national level has been his advocacy to advance commitment to, and operationalization of, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. During the first term of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur focused on encouraging acceptance of the Declaration by those States that did not vote in favour of its adoption by the General Assembly in September 2007. He welcomed the reversal of positions by the four States that had cast votes against the Declaration: Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America. Subsequent to their expressions of support for the Declaration, the Special Rapporteur carried out visits to Australia (A/HRC/15/37/Add.4), New Zealand (A/HRC/15/37/Add.9) and the United States of America (A/HRC/21/47/Add.1). The Special Rapporteur also expressed his appreciation for the announcements of support for the Declaration by Colombia and Samoa, two States that had abstained from the vote in 2007.

10. In addition, during the course of his two mandate terms, the Special Rapporteur has responded to requests by State officials and indigenous peoples to provide assistance with constitutional and legislative reform efforts focused on harmonizing national frameworks with applicable international standards related to the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2008 the Special Rapporteur provided technical assistance to the Constituent Assembly of Ecuador within the context of Ecuador's constitutional revision process, which resulted in one of the most advanced constitutions in the world with respect to the rights of indigenous peoples

(A/HRC/9/9/Add.1, annex 1). In follow-up, in 2010, the Special Rapporteur visited Ecuador and issued "Observations on the progress and challenges in implementing the guarantees of the Constitution of Ecuador on the rights indigenous peoples" (A/HRC/15/37/Add.7).

11. A significant number of requests for assistance made to the Special Rapporteur by Governments have focused on issues concerning the duty of States to consult with indigenous peoples and the related principle of free, prior and informed consent. In response, the Special Rapporteur has provided his observations and recommendations on several occasions, including for Chile in 2009, in the context of that Government's constitutional reform process (A/HRC/12/34/Add.6, appendix A), and in 2012, in relation to the Government's draft regulation on indigenous consultation and participation; for Colombia in 2010, regarding the development of a law or regulation on the duty to consult with indigenous peoples and Afro-Colombian communities on matters affecting them; for Guatemala in 2011, on the Government's initiative to regulate a procedure for consultation with indigenous peoples; for Peru in 2011 and 2012, in relation to the development of a law and corresponding regulation on consultation with indigenous peoples; and for Brazil in 2012, around the development of mechanisms for consultations with indigenous peoples and clarifications regarding the practical dimensions of the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

12. The Special Rapporteur has also provided technical assistance to Governments as they develop laws and policies related to other issues. For example, he has been involved in promoting good practices regarding indigenous peoples' access to justice and coordination between State and indigenous justice systems. In June 2010, the Special Rapporteur offered comments to the Government of Ecuador in the context of its efforts to develop a law in that regard, and in April 2013 he provided detailed comments on a protocol developed by the Supreme Court of Mexico for justice administrators regarding the rights of indigenous individuals and peoples. Further, at the request of the Government of Suriname and the indigenous and tribal peoples of that country, in 2011 the Special Rapporteur travelled to Suriname to provide advice on the development of legislation to protect indigenous and tribal land rights (A/HRC/18/35/Add.7).

13. Complimentary to his work promoting good practices at the national level, the Special Rapporteur has dedicated significant energy to advancing decisions, programmatic reforms and initiatives by international actors. A primary focus of these efforts has been assisting United Nations programmes and specialized agencies to align programmes and policies with international standards concerning indigenous peoples.

14. In seeking to advance harmonization of international programmes with international standards, the Special Rapporteur has collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme; the World Bank Group, including the International Finance Corporation; the World Intellectual Property Organization; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United Nations Global Compact; and OHCHR. In addition, in his last report to the General Assembly (A/67/301), the Special Rapporteur provided comments on the need to bring the myriad activities within the United Nations system that affect indigenous peoples into conformity with relevant international standards. Specific United Nations processes and programmes reviewed in that report include those relating to

the institutions just mentioned, as well as to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and United Nations and World Bank programmes aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

15. The Special Rapporteur has also sought to raise awareness about, and promote, the rights of indigenous peoples through his participation in seminars and other events. Since assuming his mandate in 2008, he has participated in some 41 conferences and seminars in 19 different countries on various issues related to indigenous peoples. Descriptions of those events, as well as the Special Rapporteur's statements, can be found on the website maintained by the support project for the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples at the University of Arizona (www.unsr.jamesanaya.org).

16. The promotion of good practices and providing technical assistance are key areas in which the Special Rapporteur has seen his work have a positive effect, with many of his recommendations being taken up in legal and policy reforms made at the international and national levels. In the future, he would like to see additional attention placed on providing technical assistance directly to indigenous peoples themselves, including in order to strengthen their negotiation capacity and their ability to carry out their own initiatives in promotion of their rights. States, the United Nations, and donor agencies should lend support to indigenous peoples in this regard.

2. Country reports

17. Reporting on the human rights conditions of indigenous peoples in specific countries is one of the main tools available to the Special Rapporteur in fulfilment of the various components of his mandate, for which there is a fairly well developed methodology and set of expectations that generally apply for all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. Those reports include conclusions and recommendations that aim to strengthen good practices, identify areas of concern, and improve on the human rights conditions of indigenous peoples in a specific country context.

18. In developing the reports, the Special Rapporteur visits the country under consideration, including the capital and specific areas or communities of concern. He engages with Government representatives, indigenous peoples, and other actors, including members of civil society and, if there is one, the United Nations country team. Country visits provide an important opportunity to draw attention to the concerns of indigenous peoples in a specific country, including through engaging with the media. In this regard, as is the usual practice for county visits of special procedures mandate holders, at the end of each of his visits, the Special Rapporteur holds a press conference, during which he presents his initial observations and conclusions. During his visit to Argentina, the Special Rapporteur was accompanied by a film crew which produced an educational video on his visit, a good practice that he considers could be developed further to raise awareness of the work of mandate holders.

19. Country visits occur only with the consent and cooperation of the Government concerned, although the Special Rapporteur has also developed methods for reporting on country situations without conducting on-site visits, in view of the lack of cooperation of some Governments in that regard, as discussed further below. He

has observed, regretfully, that even some countries that have open invitations to special procedures mandate holders have been unresponsive to requests for visits or have delayed unacceptably in agreeing to dates for visits. The Special Rapporteur believes that the Human Rights Council should develop means to ensure that States act in good faith in accordance with their open invitations to special procedures mandate holders. He also hopes that the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, and the special procedures mandate holders will develop methodologies for reviewing human rights situations in countries that do not respond positively to visits.

20. Over the course of his mandate thus far, the Special Rapporteur has conducted visits to and issued reports concerning indigenous peoples in Brazil (A/HRC/12/34/Add.2); Nepal (A/HRC/12/34/Add.3); Botswana (A/HRC/15/37/Add.2); Chile (A/HRC/12/34/Add.6); Colombia (A/HRC/15/37/Add.3); Australia (A/HRC/15/37/Add.4); the Russian Federation (A/HRC/15/37/Add.5); the Sápmi region (the traditional territory of the Sami people) in Norway, Sweden and Finland (A/HRC/18/35/Add.2); New Zealand (A/HRC/18/35/Add.4); the Republic of the Congo (A/HRC/18/35/Add.5); New Caledonia (France) (A/HRC/18/35/Add.6); Argentina (A/HRC/21/47/Add.2); the United States of America (A/HRC/21/47/Add.1); El Salvador (A/HRC/24/41/Add.2); and Namibia (A/HRC/24/41/Add.1). In July 2013, the Special Rapporteur visited Panama and is in the process of developing his report on the conditions of indigenous peoples in that country. Before the end of 2013, the Special Rapporteur will carry out visits to Canada and Peru, and he looks forward to visiting one or two final countries before his mandate ends in April 2014. These visits and reports to examine the general human rights situation of indigenous peoples in the countries under review are in addition to the visits and reports by the Special Rapporteur to examine specific cases of alleged human rights violation in accordance with the communications procedure (see para. 33, below).

21. The Special Rapporteur notes that his reports on Chile, Colombia, and New Zealand were to evaluate the progress made in those countries in implementing the recommendations made by his predecessor in earlier reports. His upcoming visit to and report on Canada will also be in follow-up to a visit by the former Special Rapporteur. Subsequent to each of his initial or follow-up country reports, the Special Rapporteur has sent additional letters in accordance with his communications procedure regarding specific areas of concern addressed in his reports.

22. The Special Rapporteur's report on the Sami people following his visit to the Sápmi region, the traditional territory of the Sami people that includes parts of Norway, Sweden and Finland, is different from the standard country reports that are typically issued by special procedures mandate holders that focus on a single country. Given the fact that the Sami people live across the international borders of those three countries, the Special Rapporteur issued a consolidated report on the situation of the Sami people, addressing their human rights conditions in each of the countries. He considers that more reporting could be done along these lines, given the prevalence of indigenous peoples living in more than one country and the cross-border challenges that they face. A complicating factor, however, is obtaining the acceptance for visits from more than one State.

23. In addition, given that only one country in Asia — Nepal — responded favourably to the Special Rapporteur's request for a visit, and in the light of the high number of communications he has received from that region regarding human rights

concerns, in March 2013, the Special Rapporteur conducted a two-day consultation in Kuala Lumpur, during which he consulted with indigenous peoples from Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, and Myanmar. The Special Rapporteur's report on the consultation (A/HRC/24/41/Add.3) provides an overview of the main issues raised during the consultation and contains a series of overarching conclusions and recommendations on the basis of the information received.

24. Within the terms of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur is communicating directly with the relevant Governments in Asia about many of the concerns raised during the consultation, and is requesting their views on these concerns. He intends to issue corresponding observations and recommendations, noting positive developments and outstanding challenges. These communications and any responses to them will be made public and presented to the Human Rights Council in 2014. Still, further attention should be placed on the situation of indigenous peoples in the Asia region in the coming years. The Special Rapporteur hopes that Asian Governments will show increased openness to engaging on indigenous issues and will increase cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples.

25. While country reports are intended to raise awareness about the human rights concerns of indigenous peoples in specific countries and to provide guidance on how to address those concerns, there is a need to devote greater efforts to publicize and disseminate the reports among the relevant stakeholders, and develop strategies to use the recommendations in the report to effect change. In this connection, a practice employed by the Special Rapporteur on occasion has been to present his findings, either in person or by videoconference, to a cross-section of actors at the country level, allowing them the chance to learn about the reports and to ask him questions directly about them, as he has done in the case of several country reports. United Nations country teams have played an important role in supporting the organization of some of these presentations. The Special Rapporteur also notes as a good practice the development of a working group by the Government of Norway, in collaboration with Sami leaders, to consider means of implementing recommendations made in the report on the conditions of the Sami people. However, much more could be done to make known and make use of country reports, and the Special Rapporteur hopes that OHCHR, United Nations country teams, and non-governmental organizations especially, will continue to develop methodologies and invest resources towards this end.

3. Specific cases of allegations of human rights violations

(a) Communications procedure and follow-up

26. Another principal focus of the Special Rapporteur's work throughout his mandate has been responding, on a continual basis, to allegations of human right violations in specific cases. This work area is carried out in accordance with his mandate from the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 15/14, to gather, request, receive and exchange information and communications from all relevant sources, including Governments, indigenous peoples and their communities and organizations, on alleged violations of the rights of indigenous peoples. In communicating with Governments on specific cases, the Special Rapporteur is, for

the most part, responding to information submitted to him by indigenous peoples and their organizations, and non-governmental organizations.

27. In general, he acts on detailed and credible information that presents a serious situation falling within his mandate and in which intervention has a reasonable chance of having a positive impact, either by drawing needed attention to the situation or by prompting Government authorities or other actors into corrective action. Alternatively, the Special Rapporteur may take action where the situation is representative of, or connected to, a broader pattern of human rights violations against indigenous peoples. The Special Rapporteur has been careful to respond to allegations of human rights violations from a wide range of regions and countries.

28. The usual first step in taking action on a case is for the Special Rapporteur to write a letter to the Government concerned, along with a request that the Government respond in either 60 days, or in urgent cases involving immediate threats to the indigenous peoples concerned, 30 days. Cases addressed over the course of the Special Rapporteur's mandate demonstrate a number of ongoing barriers to the full enjoyment of the collective and individual rights of indigenous peoples.

29. Within the bounds of available resources, the Special Rapporteur often takes concrete steps to follow up to his letters of allegation or urgent appeals. In many cases, the Special Rapporteur has provided detailed observations with analyses of the issues raised and specific recommendations to the States concerned, in an effort to engage Governments in constructive dialogue conducive to finding solutions to problems and building good practices.

30. The Special Rapporteur has striven to be appropriately selective in the cases to which he devotes significant follow-up efforts, focusing on situations that are especially problematic or are emblematic of issues that are faced by indigenous peoples in particular countries or throughout the world. Through the in-depth analysis of specific situations, the Special Rapporteur has aimed to consolidate approaches for addressing similar kinds of problems and developing appropriate responses, in the light of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant instruments.

31. On occasion, the Special Rapporteur has issued public statements concerning situations that, in his view, require immediate and urgent attention by the Governments concerned. During his mandate, the Special Rapporteur issued a total of 27 public statements, of which 7 were issued jointly with one or more of the other special procedures mandate holders. Public statements provide an important opportunity to call attention to particularly troubling situations involving immediate threats to the rights of indigenous peoples, and are an essential element of the work of special procedures mandate holders.

32. The Special Rapporteur has also developed the practice of carrying out site visits to assess specific cases. Throughout the course of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur carried out site visits to evaluate the situation of the Charco la Pava community and other communities affected by the Chan 75 hydroelectric project in Panama (see A/HRC/12/34/Add.5); the situation of indigenous peoples in relation to violent clashes in Bagua and Utcubamba, Peru (A/HRC/12/34/Add.8); the situation of indigenous peoples affected by the Marlin mine in Guatemala (A/HRC/15/37/Add.8 and A/HRC/18/35/Add.3); the development of the hydroelectric project El Diquís in

Costa Rica (A/HRC/18/35/Add.8); and the process to develop legislation to secure indigenous and tribal peoples' rights to lands and resources in Suriname (A/HRC/18/35/Add.7).

33. In the view of the Special Rapporteur, the ability to respond quickly to situations requiring immediate attention, including carrying out on-site visits to help to calm tense situations or mediate dialogue, is one of the most important aspects of the work of special procedures mandate holders, and should be encouraged. However, this work is outside the standard framework of work methods typically employed by special procedures mandate holders. The Special Rapporteur has had to seek alternative funding for these missions, which require efforts that generally take some time. There are challenges, therefore, in being appropriately responsive to cases that merit on-site attention.

34. The Special Rapporteur has also sent several letters to corporations involved in activities — usually extractive activities — that have given rise to allegations of human rights violations. It is of note that all the corporations to which the Special Rapporteur has addressed letters have responded in depth. The Special Rapporteur is of the view that more engagement with business enterprises is needed and he hopes that greater emphasis will be placed on this in the future.

(b) Outcomes

35. Since assuming the mandate in 2008, the Special Rapporteur has thus far sent 125 allegation letters and urgent appeals, 55 of which were sent jointly with other special procedures mandate holders, and 35 follow-up letters. Further, he has provided detailed observations and recommendations in 22 cases reviewed. In total, the Special Rapporteur sent 182 communications to 45 different States. Communications were transmitted regionally as follows: South America, 88; Asia, 36; Africa, 25; North America, 19; Europe and Russia, 6; Middle East, 3; and Oceania, 3.

36. Certainly, the cooperation of the Government is essential to the effectiveness of the procedure. The Special Rapporteur has received a total of 113 replies to his 182 letters sent, representing a reply rate of 62 per cent. He acknowledges with gratitude all States that have transmitted responses to the communications sent. In this context, the Special Rapporteur recalls paragraph two of the Human Rights Council resolution 15/14, in which the Council requested all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, to furnish all available information requested in his/her communications, and to react promptly to his/her urgent appeals. While the majority of States have responded to his communications, a significant number have not, with clear negative implications for the effectiveness of the communications procedure.

37. The Special Rapporteur has issued on an annual basis reports containing summaries of letters sent, replies received, and any observations and recommendations (A/HRC/9/9/Add.1; A/HRC/12/34/Add.1; A/HRC/15/37/Add.1; A/HRC/18/35/Add.1; A/HRC/21/47/Add.3; A/HRC/24/41/Add.4). Since 2011, OHCHR has issued reports, on a periodic basis, containing all of the letters sent and replies received by all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council. Short summaries of allegations communicated to the respective State or other entity are included in the joint communications reports. The complete texts of communications sent and replies received are accessible electronically through

hyperlinks in those reports (A/HRC/23/51; A/HRC/22/67; A/HRC/21/49; A/HRC/20/30; A/HRC/19/44; A/HRC/18/51; A/HRC/24/21).

38. In the view of the Special Rapporteur, responding to specific allegations of human rights violations represents a cornerstone of the work of the mandate. In contrast to many other complaint procedures before international or regional human rights bodies, the communications procedure of special procedures mandate holders allows for immediate action. Use of the communications procedure does not have restrictive admissibility requirements, and any individual or group of individuals can present a complaint to the Special Rapporteur. Another benefit is that, as noted above, intervention with Governments involved and follow-up can take many forms, and there is thus an important level of flexibility available to the Special Rapporteur to respond to the various cases presented to him. Challenges faced in relation to the communications procedure, however, include the limited resources to respond to the high number of requests for intervention received by the Special Rapporteur on a daily basis, and the often lack of responsiveness of many Governments to the allegations raised and to preventing or remedying any violations.

4. Thematic studies

39. Throughout his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has sought to identify common issues affecting indigenous peoples on a global scale and examine measures needed to address those concerns. However, taking into consideration that, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 6/36, paragraph 1 (a), the principal mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Right of Indigenous Peoples is to develop studies and research-based advice for the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur has striven to carry out his thematic work in a way that is complementary to, and non-duplicative, of the studies of the Expert Mechanism and that draws on his unique experiences from other work areas.

40. In each of his annual reports to the Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur has examined key issues, including the following: the significance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (A/HRC/9/9); the duty of States to consult with and obtain the consent of indigenous peoples before adopting measures that affect them (A/HRC/12/34); the responsibility of corporations to respect the rights of indigenous peoples (A/HRC/15/37); and violence against indigenous women and girls (A/HRC/21/47).

41. In addition, the Special Rapporteur dedicated significant energy during the second term of his mandate to the issue of extractive industries operating in or near indigenous peoples' territories, dedicating all or part of three annual reports to this theme (A/HRC/18/35, A/HRC/21/47 and A/HRC/24/41). The Special Rapporteur would like to draw the particular attention of the General Assembly to his last report to the Human Rights Council dated September 2013, which represents the culmination of his three years of investigation into this issue. In the report, the Special Rapporteur underscores that a preferred model for resource extraction and development is through indigenous peoples' own initiatives and enterprises; addresses issues related to the standard scenario when States or third-party business enterprises promote the extraction of natural resources within indigenous territories, including issues related to consultation and consent; and finally, identifies conditions for getting to and sustaining indigenous peoples' agreement to extractive activities promoted by the State or third-party business enterprises.

42. In developing his report on extractive industries and indigenous peoples, the Special Rapporteur distributed a questionnaire to States, indigenous peoples and business enterprises to gather their views on the positive and negative aspects of extractive industries in indigenous territories. He also participated in numerous meetings to gather perspectives on the issue from indigenous peoples, Governments, and companies, including meetings in Australia, Norway, Sweden, Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. In addition, the Special Rapporteur launched an online forum to gather examples of specific extractive projects that are being carried out in or near indigenous peoples territories, and collected and analysed numerous cases studies, including those that have contained elements of good practices.

43. In his reports to the General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur has addressed thematic issues, including: the United Nations Declaration, its general character and content and the operationalization of the rights (A/64/338); the right of indigenous peoples to development with culture and identity and the right of indigenous peoples to participation (A/65/264); the duty of States to consult with and obtain the consent of indigenous peoples before adopting measures that affect them and the responsibility of corporations to respect the rights of indigenous peoples (A/66/288); and the need to harmonize the myriad activities within the United Nations system which affect indigenous peoples (A/67/301).

B. Coordination with other human rights bodies

1. Coordination with other United Nations mechanisms with mandates regarding indigenous peoples

44. The Special Rapporteur's mandate from the Human Rights Council, as set out in resolution 15/14, paragraph 1, requires him to work in close cooperation and coordination with other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Council, in particular with the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, relevant United Nations bodies, the treaty bodies and regional human rights organizations. Since the beginning of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has consistently worked in coordination with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples. The three mechanisms have met regularly at least once a year to identify and coordinate their responses to the challenges and opportunities related to the protection and promotion of indigenous rights.

45. A key component of coordination has been the participation of the Special Rapporteur in the regular sessions of the Permanent Forum and Expert Mechanism. During the annual sessions, the Special Rapporteur has contributed to discussions of substantive issues under consideration. Recently, the Special Rapporteur has participated in interactive dialogues with meeting participants, during which States, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, and others can pose questions regarding various issues.

46. In addition, the Special Rapporteur has developed the practice of holding parallel meetings with indigenous peoples and organizations during the annual sessions. These meetings have provided indigenous peoples and organizations with the opportunity to voice their specific concerns regarding alleged human rights violations in their countries directly to the Special Rapporteur. The practice was

developed in light of the fact that numerous indigenous individuals go to the annual meetings of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism with complaints about specific situations, although neither mechanism has a mandate to follow up with the Governments concerned. The Special Rapporteur has typically held some 20 to 30 individual meetings during each of the annual sessions, and he follows up on many of the cases received in accordance with his communications procedure. He hopes that the next Special Rapporteur will be able to continue this practice and that the Secretariat will continue to provide support in this regard.

47. Another central aspect of collaboration between the Special Rapporteur, the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism has centred around the development of thematic studies. The Special Rapporteur has provided comments on the diverse studies of these mechanisms, drawing from the various aspects of his work as Special Rapporteur. The three mechanisms collaborated in each other's examination of the issue of extractive industries affecting indigenous peoples, striving to avoid duplication and to ensure that the work is mutually reinforcing.

2. Coordination with other United Nations human rights mechanisms, institutions and processes

48. The Special Rapporteur has, on a continual basis, collaborated with other United Nations human rights mechanisms and institutions in relation to various issues related to the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous peoples, including specific cases of allegations of violations. Most notably, the Special Rapporteur has coordinated with other special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council in their review of cases, country situations, and thematic issues of mutual concern.

49. In addition, the Special Rapporteur has, on occasion, coordinated with United Nations human rights treaty bodies, especially the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Human Rights Committee. This coordination has taken place both in relation to these bodies' periodic review of countries and in their examination of specific cases — with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, under its urgent action and early warning procedure, and with the Human Rights Committee, under the communications procedure established under its first Optional Protocol. In regard to some countries or cases being reviewed by United Nations treaty bodies, the Special Rapporteur, via the Secretariat, has been able to share information gathered during on-site country visits and advise on his observations and recommendations.

50. The recommendations of the Special Rapporteur with respect to specific country situations have also been raised during the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review mechanism. Through coordination with the Secretariat, the Special Rapporteur has highlighted particular issues of concern regarding countries under review, drawing from his examination of specific cases and country situations. His observations and recommendations have been reflected in the compilation of United Nations materials prepared by OHCHR, submitted to Member States.

51. However, in general, more could be done, including within the Secretariat and among the experts, to coordinate and share information. There is still a significant level of duplication among the various human rights bodies and some inconsistent recommendations. For their part, indigenous peoples and others working on their

behalf should be forthright when submitting information to the Special Rapporteur if the same matter has also been submitted to another special procedures mandate, United Nations human right treaty bodies, regional human rights mechanism, or other relevant procedure, so that adequate coordination between the mechanisms can take place and unnecessary duplication avoided.

52. Finally, the Special Rapporteur has participated in the preparations for the high-level session of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and convened in September 2014. He participated in an initial preparatory meeting to discuss the World Conference in Copenhagen in January 2012 and a second meeting, together with members of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, in Guatemala in December 2012. In addition, in June 2013, the Special Rapporteur spoke at an indigenous peoples' preparatory session for the World Conference, held in Alta, Norway, which resulted in a draft outcome document detailing the indigenous representatives' collective expectations and proposals for the World Conference. He has also participated in panels on the World Conference in the context of the 2013 annual sessions of the Permanent Forum and the Expert Mechanism, as well as during a half-day panel on the World Conference during the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2013.

3. Coordination with regional human rights bodies

53. The Special Rapporteur has also striven to maintain a dialogue with regional human rights institutions. Given the specific relevance of the Americas region to the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, his principal coordination in this regard has been with the institutions of the inter-American human rights system: the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The main aspect of coordination has been in relation to specific cases under review by both the Special Rapporteur and the institutions of the inter-American system.

54. The Special Rapporteur has also followed up with several Governments regarding the status of implementation of decisions previously made within the inter-American system. For example, in December 2008, he participated in discussions leading up to a ceremony in Awas Tingni, Nicaragua, during which the Government presented the indigenous community with its long-awaited title to its ancestral lands as required by a 2001 judgement of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. In addition, as noted above, in March 2011, the Special Rapporteur visited Suriname to provide technical assistance to the Government to develop laws to recognize and protect indigenous peoples' rights to lands and resources, which was in the context of the judgement of the Inter-American Court in the case of the *Saramaka People vs. Suriname*. Further, in July 2011, the Special Rapporteur provided expert testimony before the Inter-American Court in the case of the *Kichwa Indigenous People of Sarayaku v. Ecuador*, regarding consultation and free, prior and informed consent.

55. With respect to coordination with other regional human rights institutions, in April 2013, the Special Rapporteur participated in an Exchange workshop on indigenous peoples' rights between the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul. The workshop provided the Special Rapporteur with

the opportunity to present his work in the African context and globally, and exchange information with the regional mechanisms on common challenges and objectives. On the basis of the discussion that took place at that meeting, the Special Rapporteur plans to visit Kenya in September 2013 to meet with members of the African Commission's Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa, to discuss strategies for implementation of the Commission's principal decision to date regarding indigenous peoples, its decision in the case of the *Endorois Welfare Council vs. Kenya*.

56. The Special Rapporteur hopes that, in the future, the mandate will develop more systematized methodologies for coordinating with the regional human rights institutions, as well as strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights. As above, he encourages indigenous peoples and their representatives to think strategically when submitting the same case to both the Special Rapporteur and the regional human rights institutions, considering the added value that each procedure might be able to offer and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

III. Strengthening commitment to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its implementation

57. Throughout his mandate the Special Rapporteur has been especially cognizant of the directive by the Human Rights Council, in its resolutions 15/14 and 6/12, paragraph 1 (g), that he promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and international instruments relevant to the advancement of the rights of indigenous peoples, where appropriate. Because of this directive and the Declaration's stature as the principal statement of the United Nations on indigenous rights, since assuming his mandate in May 2008, the Special Rapporteur has regarded the Declaration as providing the principal normative frame of reference for his work, as made clear in his numerous thematic and country reports and communications regarding alleged violations of human rights.

58. The Special Rapporteur continues to observe that, despite expressions of commitment to the Declaration and significant positive developments worldwide, a great deal remains to be done to see the objectives of the Declaration become a reality in the everyday lives of indigenous peoples of the world. In previous reports, the Special Rapporteur has provided extensive analysis of the Declaration and the need for concrete steps to advance in the implementation of the human rights standards enshrined therein (A/67/301, paras. 26 to 32, 82; A/66/288, paras. 62 to 76; A/65/264, paras. 54 to 69; 83 to 88; A/64/338, paras. 37 to 64, 68 to 75; and A/HRC/9/9, paras. 18 to 90). He still fears that the wide gap between the rights mentioned in the Declaration and its effective implementation will persist, leading to a certain complacency and acceptance of that condition by dominant actors and within the United Nations system. As he has stressed before, this cannot be allowed to happen.

59. The Special Rapporteur perceives that, among many States and other powerful actors, commitment to the Declaration is weakened, not just by contending political and economic forces, but by certain ambiguities and positions about the status and content of the Declaration. In the following discussion, the Special Rapporteur confronts some of these ambiguities and positions, in the hope of helping to

overcome their debilitating effects and advancing toward a strong global commitment to the Declaration and its implementation. Also discussed is the need for greater awareness of the Declaration and of its role as and instrument of reconciliation and social harmony.

A. The normative weight of the Declaration

60. Throughout the course of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur has heard numerous Governments emphatically characterize the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as non-binding or merely aspirational, thereby according the Declaration a diminished status and rationalizing a diminished commitment to its terms. Although the Special Rapporteur has addressed the issue of the Declaration's status in past reports, given the persistent references to the Declaration as non-binding, the Special Rapporteur would like to again provide some observations on this issue.

61. The Special Rapporteur readily acknowledges that, under prevailing international law doctrine, declarations adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, unlike treaties, are not themselves direct sources of law. But to say simply that the Declaration is non-binding is an incomplete and potentially misleading characterization of its normative weight. It has long been widely understood that standard-setting resolutions of the General Assembly can and usually do have legal implications, especially if called "declarations", a denomination usually reserved for standard-setting resolutions of profound significance.

62. The General Assembly has a long history of adopting declarations on various human rights issues, including the first international human rights instrument of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948. These declarations, like other resolutions, are adopted by the General Assembly under the authority granted to it under Article 13 (1) (b) of the Charter of the United Nations to make recommendations for the purpose of assisting with the realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

63. Although technically a resolution, the Declaration has legal significance, first, because it reflects an important level of consensus at the global level about the content of indigenous peoples' rights, and that consensus informs the general obligation that States have under the Charter — an undoubtedly binding multilateral treaty of the highest order — to respect and promote human rights, including under Articles 1 (2), 1 (3), 55 and 56 of the Charter. The Declaration was adopted by an overwhelming majority of Member States and with the support of indigenous peoples worldwide and, as noted earlier, the few States that voted against the Declaration each subsequently reversed their positions. Especially when representing such a widespread consensus, General Assembly resolutions on matters of human rights, having been adopted under the authority of the Charter itself, can and do inform Member States' obligations under the human rights clauses of the Charter.[1]

[1] Ian Brownlie, *Principles of Public Interna..onal Law* (Oxford, 7th ed., 2009), p. 15.

64. Secondly, some aspects of the Declaration — including core principles of non-discrimination, cultural integrity, property, self-determination and related precepts that are articulated in the Declaration — constitute, or are becoming, part of customary international law or are general principles of international law, as found by the International Law Association after a committee of experts conducted an extensive survey of international and State practice in relation to the Declaration.[2] A norm of customary international law arises when a preponderance of States (and other actors with international personality) converge on a common understanding of the norm's content and generally expect compliance with, and share a sense of obligation to, the norm. It cannot be much disputed that at least some of the core provisions of the Declaration, with their grounding in well-established human rights principles, possess these characteristics and thus reflect customary international law.

65. Finally, the Declaration is an extension of standards found in various human rights treaties that have been widely ratified and that are legally binding on States. Human rights treaties with provisions relating to the rights of indigenous peoples include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The human rights treaty bodies that interpret and apply these treaties now frequently apply their provisions in ways that reflect the standards in the Declaration and sometimes explicitly refer to the Declaration in doing so. This happens, in particular, with regard to treaty provisions affirming principles of non-discrimination, cultural integrity and self-determination: principles that are also incorporated into the Declaration and upon which the Declaration elaborates with specific reference to indigenous peoples. Although the Declaration is not necessarily dispositive when interpreting a treaty the provisions of which intersect with those of the Declaration, it provides important guidance of significant weight.[3]

66. Whatever its legal significance, moreover, the Declaration has a significant normative weight grounded in its high degree of legitimacy. This legitimacy is a function not only of the fact that it has been formally endorsed by an overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States, but also the fact that it is the product of

[2] See International Law Association, 75th conference, resolution No. 5/2102, para. 2 (Sofia, 5 August 2012); International Law Association, Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Final Report (2012).

[3] In communications to the Special Rapporteur, at least one State that has endorsed the Declaration has nonetheless taken the position that the Declaration should not be used to interpret treaties to which it is a party because the Declaration is not legally binding and because it was adopted subsequent to those treaties and not negotiated in their specific context. See Diplomatic Note by the Permanent Mission of the United States of America, Geneva, dated 17 November 2011, p. 5, in A/HRC/19/44. The Special Rapporteur considers this position to be at odds with a posture of support for the Declaration and to be jurisprudentially unsound. Inasmuch as States have embraced the principles of indigenous rights embodied in the Declaration by having voted in favour of it or declared support for it, it is hard to see how the Declaration could not be regarded as highly instructive in applying a treaty that is relevant to indigenous peoples. To decline to see the Declaration as instructive in this way goes against trends in international law and practice by which human rights treaties are interpreted in a dynamic fashion, in the light of new understandings and in accordance with the *pro homine* principle, which requires the application of human rights treaties in a way that most favours the protection of human rights. See Inter-American Court on Human Rights, *Mayagna (Sumo) Awas Tingni Community v. Nicaragua*, Judgement of 31 August 2001, paras. 146-148.

years of advocacy and struggle by indigenous peoples themselves. The norms of the Declaration substantially reflect indigenous peoples' own aspirations, which after years of deliberation have come to be accepted by the international community. The Declaration's wording, which has been endorsed by Member States, explicitly manifests a commitment to the rights and principles embodied in the Declaration. It is simply a matter of good faith that States adhere to that expression of commitment to the norms that indigenous peoples themselves have advanced.

67. In sum, the significance of the Declaration is not to be diminished by assertions of its technical status as a resolution that in itself has a non-legally binding character. The Special Rapporteur reiterates that implementation of the Declaration should be regarded as political, moral and, yes, legal imperative without qualification.

B. The Declaration's foundations in equality and human rights

68. Equally debilitating to the Declaration are characterizations of the instrument as granting a status to indigenous peoples of privilege over other groups, a characterization the Special Rapporteur has heard expressed by State officials and others in positions of influence in numerous local settings outside the diplomatic arena. Such characterizations of the Declaration implicitly question its fairness, thereby undermining its legitimacy.

69. Far from elevating indigenous peoples over others, the Declaration, in article 2, aims to ensure that indigenous peoples and individuals are equal to all other peoples and individuals. Equality and non-discrimination are bedrock principles of the Declaration, in accordance with the United Nations human rights regime more generally, as made clear in the Declarations preamble (inter alia, paras. 2, 5 and 22) and in several of its provisions (inter alia, art. 1, 2 and 17). To ascribe to the Declaration any design of privilege or superiority is a gross distortion of its true character.

70. While the Declaration does articulate standards that are specific to indigenous peoples, it does not fundamentally create for indigenous peoples new substantive rights that others do not enjoy, as pointed out previously by the Special Rapporteur (A/64/338, para. 47). Rather, it recognizes for them the human rights that they should have enjoyed all along as part of the human family, contextualizes those rights in the light of their particular circumstances and characteristics, in particular their communal bonds, and promotes measures to remedy the rights' historical and systemic violation. The interconnectedness of all human rights and their universality, along with their propensity to give rise to context-specific prescriptions, is illustrated by the Declaration's articulation of norms that are, at the same time, grounded in universal human rights but specific to indigenous peoples. The interrelationships between universal rights of equality, self-determination, cultural integrity, property, development, and social and economic welfare, understood in the specific context of indigenous peoples, define a range of specific indigenous peoples' rights that are articulated in the Declaration.

71. In keeping with this context specificity, the basic normative justification of the Declaration is stated in paragraph 6 of the preamble, in which it is acknowledged that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and

resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests. The Declaration's preamble thus stresses the essentially remedial purpose of the instrument against a backdrop of universal human rights.

72. It is precisely because the human rights of indigenous groups have been denied, with disregard for their particular characteristics, that there is a need for the Declaration. In other words, the Declaration exists because indigenous peoples have been denied equality, self-determination, and related human rights, and not in order to grant them privilege over others. This remedy should not have to exist, just as the history of oppression that gives rise to it should not have been. But that history did occur, and its ongoing consequences make necessary a global remedial response that is appropriate to indigenous peoples' particular circumstances and characteristics, which is what the Declaration represents.[4]

C. The centrality of the right of self-determination

73. A centrepiece of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is article 3, which affirms: "Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." During the more than two-decade debate that preceded the adoption of the Declaration, it was increasingly understood that self-determination is a foundational principle that anchors the constellation of indigenous peoples' rights.

74. Yet the Declaration's affirmation of indigenous peoples' right to self-determination, and hence the force of the Declaration itself, has been blunted by the position advanced by some States that this right is different from the self-determination of peoples in international law. This position has served only to detract from the core consensus that is represented in the Declaration's affirmation of self-determination for indigenous peoples and from defining the specific modalities for implementing the right.

75. The Special Rapporteur strongly disagrees with any implication that the right to self-determination of indigenous peoples, as affirmed in the Declaration, is apart from the right to self-determination that peoples generally enjoy under international law, for reasons set forth in his extensive academic writing on the subject.[5] To be sure, the right to self-determination, like other rights, gives rise to different prescriptions in different contexts, but at its core, it is the same fundamental human right for all peoples. To suggest otherwise is difficult, if not impossible, to justify within a human rights framework in which equality and non-discrimination are bedrock maxims, and is contrary to the Declaration itself, which provides, as

[4] For an in-depth discussion of the remedial character of the Declaration, see S. James Anaya, "Why there should not have to be a declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples", in S. James Anaya, ed., *International Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples* (Aspen-Wolters Kluwer, 2011), p. 58.

[5] See, e.g., S. James Anaya, *Indigenous Peoples in International Law* (Oxford University Press, 2nd ed., 2004), pp. 97-128; S. James Anaya, "The right of indigenous peoples to self-determination in the post-declaration era", in Claire Chartres and Rodolfo Stavenhagen, eds., *Making the Declaration Work: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (IWGIA, 2009).

already pointed out, that indigenous peoples and individuals are equal to all other peoples and individuals.

76. That being said, the Special Rapporteur is of the view that it is not necessary to resolve the debate about the nature of the Declaration's affirmation of self-determination in relation to international law in order for there to be a meaningful commitment to that affirmation. The position that the self-determination recognized in the Declaration is different from that of international law is born of the assumption, mistaken in the view of the Special Rapporteur, that under international law, self-determination neces...rily means the right to become an independent State. But indigenous peoples, as such, rarely, if at all, seek independent statehood outside of classic situations of non-self-governing territories. Thus, the position is of little or no practical utility for the States that assert it and is mostly a distraction.

77. Whatever the validity of that position, it is clear that the right to self-determination affirmed in the Declaration, like the right as affirmed in international law generally, has a core meaning around which there is substantial consensus. That meaning, essentially, is that indigenous peoples have the right to pursue their own destinies in all spheres of life, under conditions of equality, and to live within governing institutional orders that are devised accordingly. The focus of States, along with that of relevant international institutions and indigenous peoples themselves, should be on strengthening commitment to this core principle and taking practical steps to implement it.

D. The need for greater awareness of the Declaration and its role in promoting reconciliation and social harmony

78. Based on his work over the two terms of his mandate, the Special Rapporteur is convinced that a still pending crucial task is raising awareness about the Declaration among Government actors, the United Nations system, indigenous peoples themselves, and, more generally, society. The Special Rapporteur has observed throughout his work a lack of knowledge and understanding about the Declaration, the values it represents or the deep-seated issues confronting the indigenous peoples that it addresses.

79. As already noted, the text of the Declaration evolved from sentiments articulated by indigenous peoples that prompted discussion on a global scale about their rights and place in the world. Government actors were moved to embrace a vision of a world in which indigenous peoples and their diverse cultures survive as parts of the global human mosaic. The Declaration's words mark the transition from an era in which dominant thinking justified infringing or ignoring indigenous peoples rights to an era in which indigenous peoples' rights are recognized within the global programme to advance human rights and peaceful relations among the peoples of the world.

80. Implementation of standards articulated in the Declaration first requires an awareness of those standards and their justification by Government and United Nations actors at all levels, including those actors whose functions and powers touch upon the lives of indigenous peoples. There is also a great need for educating the public about the Declaration and the issues it seeks to address. It will remain difficult for the goals of the Declaration to be achieved amid competing political, economic and social forces unless the authorities and non-indigenous sectors of the

societies within which indigenous peoples live come to share in awareness and conviction about those goals.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Activities pursuant to the mandate

81. **The Special Rapporteur is grateful for the opportunity to report to the General Assembly on his activities since the beginning of his mandate in 2008. These activities fall within four interrelated areas: promoting good practices; country reports; cases of alleged human rights violations and thematic studies.**

82. **Within each of the work areas, the Special Rapporteur has built upon established work methods generally employed by Human Rights Council special procedure mandate holders, while also developing new ones, especially in relation to the promotion of good practices and addressing cases of alleged human rights violations through the communications procedure. The Special Rapporteur considers that the innovation in work methods has contributed to greater responsiveness to the human rights concerns of indigenous peoples and to assisting States and other actors to address those concerns, in furtherance of his mandate by the Human Rights Council.**

83. **The Secretariat, States and other relevant actors should encourage and support innovation and flexibility in the work methods employed by the Special Rapporteur and his successor mandate holders, when those work methods and their objectives are clearly within the terms his mandate by the Human Rights Council and consistent with the Council's Code of Conduct for special procedures mandate holders.**

84. **The Special Rapporteur is grateful to those States that have cooperated with his mandate, but notes that several States have declined to give their consent to country visits or to respond to his communications regarding alleged human rights violations. The Special Rapporteur urges that the lack of cooperation by some States with the Special Rapporteur and other special procedures mandate holders be given greater and more systematic attention within various human review processes within the United Nations system, including the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review, and that specific methods be developed to encourage cooperation, including for country visits.**

85. **Efforts should be made to more broadly and effectively disseminate the reports of the Special Rapporteur, especially country reports and reports on cases of alleged human rights violations, and to develop strategies and methods to use the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur to effect positive change. States should, as a matter of course, disseminate to all relevant officials, interested parties and the public, those reports that concern them.**

86. **The Special Rapporteur has promoted and enjoyed a notable level of cooperation with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, other United Nations institutions, and regional human rights mechanisms. Greater efforts should be**

made, however, to systematize methods of cooperation, especially in regard to the flow of information on matters of mutual concern.

B. Strengthening commitment to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and its implementation

87. The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the principal normative frame of reference for all aspects of the work of the Special Rapporteur. Despite expressions of commitment on the part of States to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and significant positive developments worldwide, a great deal remains to be done to see the objectives of the Declaration become a reality in the everyday lives of indigenous peoples of the world. Among many States and other powerful actors commitment to the Declaration is weakened by certain ambiguities and positions about the status and content of the Declaration.

88. Debilitating to the Declaration are repeated assertions that the Declaration is non-binding, characterizations of the Declaration as granting privileges to indigenous peoples over others, and the position advanced by some States that the right to self-determination affirmed in the Declaration is different from self-determination in international law. These assertions and positions are each flawed, as explained by the Special Rapporteur (paras. 61-78); they only serve to weaken the force of the broad consensus underlying the Declaration and of its role as an instrument of human rights and restorative justice.

89. There is an urgent need for greater awareness about the human rights values and concerns represented by the Declaration and about the standards that are articulated in the Declaration to address those concerns. Greater efforts must be put in place to achieve such broad awareness among governmental and other influential actors, the international system, and the general public. Without broad understanding about the reasons for the Declaration and the path forward that it marks, that path will be difficult, if not impossible to implement.

90. The Special Rapporteur urges States and others to recall why the Declaration exists in the first place — that is to improve the human rights conditions of the world's indigenous peoples — and to renew a commitment to that end.